MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 FEBRUARY 1982

Israel

Begin, Reagan Messages -- In a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, reported by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin specified the dangers in store for Israel if F-16 aircraft and mobile Hawk missiles are sold to Jordan.

Prior to receiving Begin's message, Reagan clarified the U.S. position in a message of his own to the Israeli prime minister, Jerusalem reported. According to the radio, Reagan stated that he is determined to maintain Israel's military and technological superiority and also noted Begin's concern over the impact of quantity of weapons on Israel's security. Any decision on further sales to Jordan or other countries in the region would be taken within the administration's commitment to Israel's security and the need to establish peace, Reagan continued. The radio also cited the President's belief that it is in the interest of both countries that Washington strengthen its influence in other countries in the region.

Shamir Remarks -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a speech in Geneva, reported by Jerusalem radio, asserted that even the so-called moderate Arab regimes openly declare that their weapons are intended for use against Israel. Shamir argued that there is no justification for the unprecedented quantities of military hardware flowing into the Middle East. He said recognition of the PLO and Palestinian self-determination would not bring peace but the destruction of Israel. Attacking the United Nations as an organization which has dropped its moral standards, Shamir contended that Israel would have ceased to exist long ago had it carried out "unjust" UN resolutions.

At a Geneva news conference, reported by Jerusalem radio, Shamir urged all democracies to establish a new international organization "to curb the scandals of the United Nations." According to the radio, Shamir evaded a question on the supply of Israeli arms to Iran by saying that in order to manufacture arms it is also necessary to export them.

Bi'r Zayt University Closure -- According to Jerusalem radio, Bi'r Zayt University has been closed for 2 months by order of the commander of the Central Command. Referring to a 15 February incident in which a worker in the civilian administration's Education Department was reportedly attacked on campus, the radio attributed the closure to the university authorities' inability to fulfill their responsibilities.

Golan Druze Strike -- According to Jerusalem radio, inhabitants of Druze villages in the Golan Heights began a general strike on 14 February in protest against the arrest of four pro-Syrian Druze leaders who had been arrested on suspicion of inciting rebellion. Participants in a rally at which the strike was declared said the strike would last until the four are released and until the government revokes the application of Israeli law to Druze villages.

Jordan

In an interview carried by Monte Carlo radio, Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, who is visiting France, pointed out that if there is rapprochement between Jordan and the United States, there will be more understanding on the question of arms. He added that Jordan needs surface-to-air missiles and other weapons to protect itself from recurrent Israeli aggressions. Al-Qasim also said his country differs with Syria over the Iraqi-Iranian war and the manner of handling the Lebanon issue, but he stressed that Jordan has never interfered in its neighbors' internal affairs.

Egypt - Oman

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived for a 2-day official visit to Oman, where he was received by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, Muscat radio reported. Cairo radio reported that Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usumah al-Baz said Mubarak and Qabus reviewed the situation in the region, the results of the Egyptian leader's recent talks in the United States and Europe and the means of continuing the peace process. Al-Baz said that views on these topics, and on the necessity for working for stability and security in the Gulf and bolstering Gulf defenses, were identical.

Syria

Security, Internal Situation -- Citing REUTER, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Defense Minister Mustafa Talas was involved in an Aleppo shooting incident but emerged unhurt. Monitored Syrian media have reported no such incident. According to another Voice of Lebanon report, Talas' newphew was killed in the recent fighting in Hamah, where clashes are still continuing in the old quarters of the city. Claiming that the 47th Brigade has now completely joined the rebels, the radio spoke of a rotation process among the Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) in Lebanon under which units have left Tripoli and the Al-Biqa' area for Syria. The radio also said that some citizens were leaving Aleppo for fear of violence there. Baghdad's Voice of Arab Syria radio said foreign nationals were being evacuated from Aleppo while explosions were heard in the city.

The Voice of Arab Syria also broadcast a statement issued by the "Islamic Revolution Command" which claimed that the Syrian people have taken an irrevocable decision to overthrow President Hafiz al-Asad's regime and establish a "free and popular government." Asserting that those who are still involved with Al-Asad's regime have a last chance to dissociate themselves from the "tyrant," the statement warned those who continue to fight for Al-Asad that they will not escape punishment. The statement called on Arab and Islamic Governments to sever relations with the regime and added that if the "jihad" is successful, the new Syrian Government will base its foreign policies on the attitudes taken by world states toward Al-Asad's crimes. The statement also urged Syrians to stage a general strike until the government falls.

Saudi Arabia

SPA reported that 'UKAZ denounced Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf for ingratitude and for denying facts. Indicating that Khalaf had criticized Saudi Arabia for being an agent of the United States, 'UKAZ said that according to Khalaf's dubious logic, the fact that the PLO receives Soviet weapons means that it is an agent of the Soviet Union, and PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's call on Reagan to open a dialogue with the PLO means that 'Arafat wants to become an agent of the United States. 'UKAZ said Saudi Arabia does not need to defend its true Arab orientation and its nonaligned policy.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a 9 February interview reported by the Pakistani paper JANG, declared that Iran cannot have friendly relations with the USSR until the latter withdraws its forces from Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

Citing Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, AFP reported that Soviet and Afghan Government forces have recaptured Qandahar and Herat, establishing a measure of control they have not enjoyed for several months. Mujahidin have withdrawn from Qandahar, AFP said, and Soviet and Afghan troops are now patrolling both cities at will.

Pakistan

Citing a press release by the Chief Martial Law Administrators Secretariat, Karachi radio said that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq reluctantly accepted the resignation of Agha Shahi as foreign minister on grounds of ill health. According to the radio, the president appointed former Ambassador to France Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as the new foreign minister.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO REPORTS TO USSR, CASTRO ON ZIONIST THREAT

NC140821 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0649 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday presided over a meeting of the Higher Military Council. The participants discussed Israeli military preparations and movements and the possibility of a large-scale attack against southern Lebanon by the Zionist enemy.

The news about the expected aggression greatly concerns the Palestinian command. The Palestinian command is preparing to confront this aggression with all the military resources available. The command is also including the brother Arabs and the friends [of the Palestinian people], particularly the Soviet Union and the nonaligned states, in the picture of the prospective serious developments which threaten to become an overall conflagration.

In this regard, Brother Abu 'Ammar received Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov, and gave him a letter for the Soviet leadership concerning the military concentrations and the threats being made against southern Lebanon by the leaders of the Zionist enemy.

The Soviet ambassador gave the brother commander in chief a verbal message on the situation in the area from the Soviet leadership. This meeting was attended by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the deputy commander in chief, and by brother Abu Ja'far, director of the [PLO] Political Department.

The brother commander in chief has also received the Cuban ambassador, to whom he gave a letter for President Fidel Castro in his capacity as chairman of the Conference of Nonaligned Nations. This letter concerns the deteriorating situation in the south and the possibility of a large-scale aggression by the enemy.

It is also within this framework that Brothers Abu al-Adib [Salim az-Za'nun] and Hani al-Hasan, members of the Fatah Central Committee, are traveling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia carrying letters from Brother Abu 'Ammar to King Khalid and Prince Fahd. The two officials will hold consultations on the seriousness of the situation and on the expected events.

Brother Hani al-Hasan has announced that the Palestinian revolution has verified information indicating that Israel has worked out a mobilization plan to be completed by 14 February. [A similar report by (clandestine) VOP Arabic at 1135 GMT on 14 February reports this date as 24 February.] He said: The Palestinian observation organs have taken pictures of a concentration of Israeli vehicles in the Zefat area in occupied Galilee, along the Lebanese border.

For his part, Brother Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], Fatah Central Committee member and commander of the joint forces operations [room], has emphasized that the PLO is now better armed and trained than in the past.

In a press statement, he said: I can say that a new battle will be different from previous battles. This is because the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces are now equipped so that they can inflict greater losses on the enemy.

Soviet Assurances Received

NC130751 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] In Riyadh, the Saudi magazine AL-YAMAMAH reports that the PLO has received a message containing assurances by the Soviet Union that Moscow will not sit idly by if the [Palestinian] resistance is subjected to an Israeli attack in southern Lebanon. The magazine adds that the Soviet leaders' message advises the Palestinian resistance to abide by the cease-fire in the south.

VOP RIDICULES 'CRISIS' OVER WEINBERGER REMARKS

NC151311 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Feb 82

[From "With the Events" feature]

[Text] A new drama has begun to be enacted on the stage of U.S.-Zionist relations. The subject of the drama is U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger's visit to Jordan and what has been said about the results of his visit as well as the statements that have been attributed to his entourage about Washington's intention to reassess its policy on the Middle East and consequently its attitude toward Israel.

The Zionist government yesterday hastened to raise this question during its weekly session amid a flood of statements made by officials: Shamir stated that furnishing Jordan with Hawk missiles and F-16 planes is considered a serious threat to Israel; Eytan said that such weapons would turn Jordan into a spearhead on the eastern front. The next step was an emergency session of the Knesset called to discuss this serious situation, according to the allegations made by Zionist sources, and U.S.-Israeli relations.

In Washington and after Weinberger had personally denied making any statements prejudicial to Israel, U.S. Secretary of State Haig hastened to reassure Israel and its rulers that there is no change in Washington's policy on Israel and that the matter is merely one of improving relations with the Arabs to attract them to the Camp David agreements.

However, these reassurances have not put an end to the fabricated crisis. The Zionist leaders insist on continuing drama, seeking new gains on more than one level. Begin, Shamir and Sharon have fabricated such crises before with regard to Washington. Such crises have always ended with an increase in U.S. financial allocations and aid to the Zionist entity and a U.S. pledge to continue political support for Begin's expansionist policy and aggressive plans.

The AWACS crisis is one example. Tel Aviv rejected the reassurances and became silent only after it obtained $300 million worth of U.S. arms. Begin's anger with Reagan's administration spares the latter some embarrassment with regard to its Arab friends over its unlimited support for Israel.

Crises in the strong relations and alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv are not only a mere tempest in a teapot but also a theatrical screen created to throw dust in Arab eyes and to justify additional financial and military support for the Zionist entity. This is the reality of crisis over Weinberger's statements. It is an open game, and only those who are charmed by Washington's policy believe in it -- those lackeys who hasten to rejoice whenever any bogus U.S.-Zionist disagreement appears.

FATAH'S KHALAF DENOUNCES U.S. POLICY ON SYRIA

JN151522 Damascua SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 15 Feb (SANA) -- Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has denounced the blatant U.S. interference in Syria's domestic affairs.

In a statement to the SANA Beirut correspondent, Abu Iyad called on the Arab nation to confront the vicious U.S. onslaught against Syria. He added: It is not surprising that the United States, with its ugly policy toward the Arab nation, would try to interfere in the domestic affairs of fraternal Syria. This interference has actually been taking place for a long time, but Washington recently exposed its flagrant policy by supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and others in implementing acts of killing and destruction in steadfast Syria. It is natural, Abu Iyad added, that the United States would reply to Syria's UN victory by means of this silly propaganda campaign against Syria.

VOP REPORTS ON NEW PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

JN131620 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] At the beginning of this month, the Palestinian communist organization in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the Palestinian communist organization in Lebanon and the Palestinian members of the Jordanian Communist Party in exile announced the establishment of the Palestinian Communist Party.

The Palestinian Communist Party press communique which was published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN this week stressed that the party adheres completely to the PLO in its capacities as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The party pledged to struggle to preserve the independence of the Palestinian decisions against imperialist and Zionist attempts to deal a military blow to the PLO. Moreover, the party declared it would struggle to achieve widest possible national alliance inside and outside the occupied territories.

The communique also announced that the leaderships of the merging organizations had elected a Central Committee for the Palestinian Communist Party.

KUNA Report on Party

LD131620 Kuwait KUNA in English 1106 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (KUNA) -- A prominent leader of the newly-formed united Palestinian Communist Party said Saturday that the party will soon form a military organisation to join the Palestinian revolution in the struggle against Israel.

Member of the ad hoc Central Committee of the party Dhamin 'Awdah said the party will have a military wing after completing arrangements for official launching in a general assembly which will meet in few months to elect the Central Committee and the Politburo.

The party, established last Wednesday, [10 Feb], comprises Palestinian communists from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as Palestinians who were members of the Jordanian and Lebanese communist parties.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation withheld comment on the formation of this party but some Palestinian circles welcomed its creation and hoped that it would play its role in the Palestinian people's struggle against Zionism.

Palestinian communists occupy five seats in the 315-member council. He also said the party will ask for more seats in the PLO Central Council and a representative in the 14-member PLO Executive Committee which groups various commando organisations.

Communist parties in several Arab countries had attempted in the early 1970's to form a military organisation known by the name of Al-Answar but it failed to win PLO approval as an independent organisation due to the controversy it created by not rejecting the U.N. Security Council which had been opposed by the Palestinians because it did not meet their aspirations for self-determination and a homeland.

The new organisation was then dissolved after the Palestinian commandos left Amman following severe fighting with the Jordanian Army. Its members then opted to join various Palestinian commando organisations.

After the activities of the Communist Party have increased in the occupied Arab territories the Communists started a dialogue with the PLO where they agreed to join the armed struggle against Israel instead of limiting their role to politics.

Political observers here link the formation of the party with the developing relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union and the PLO's desire to place all Palestinian political groups under its umbrella, a step which also enjoys approval of the Kremlin.

PLO WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEWED

PM091625 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Feb 82 p 3

[Interview granted by Dr Hatim al-Husayni, head of the PLO Information Office in Washington, to Grace (Halsill) in Washington -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] It is being reported that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin is preparing his forces for a move into southern Lebanon in order to capture it. Do you have any information regarding this?

[Answer] There are in fact reports of a buildup of Israeli forces and large maneuvers near the southern Lebanese borders. The U.S. State Department has expressed its concern about this. The U.S. officials have said that they have warned Israel against any strike, but they are still supplying Israel with arms. If the United States does not wish Israel to launch raids it must not give it arms, which will, of course, be used in such raids.

[Question] What do you think the United States will do if Israel moves to capture south Lebanon?

[Answer] I believe that the United States will do nothing except give it more arms.

[Question] Do you believe that the present Israeli Government wants peace?

[Answer] No. It is obvious that the present Israeli Government is not interested in peace and the best evidence of this is the Camp David accords. For more than 30 months Israel has been procrastinating and delaying on the question of autonomy, contrary to the spirit of the accords. The Israeli authorities are confiscating more land, expelling more Palestinians and building more settlements. They are creating established facts so that they will eventually be able to annex the occupied territories.

Naturally, the Arabs are seeking peace and I believe that the whole world has become certain of this. This is the reason for the change that has occurred in world opinion. In Europe the peoples have realized that Israel does not want peace and that Begin's government wants to expand and gain more land as well as to launch raids on neighboring Arab countries.

[Question] Do you believe that 'Arafat will visit United States?

[Answer] No, not now, unless he comes as a guest of the United Nations and stays within the boundaries of New York City, because the U.S. Government will not allow him to visit the United States. He has received several invitations, including one from a church in Atlanta, Georgia, and another from a religious organization in New York. 'Arafat accepted these invitations but, unfortunately, the U.S. Government does not allow him or any other PLO official to visit the United States because Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, pledged to the Israelis that he would not allow the United States to deal with the PLO.

[Question] Have you met with any U.S. officials?

[Answer] U.S. Department of State officials do not meet with us. This is ridiculous in my view. Are they afraid of us? Are we such a great power? However, I have met with some congressmen and senators such as Senators Percy, Hatfield, McClure, McCloskey, and Findley. Either I go to them or they come to us for information. But the Zionists try to prevent us from meeting with anybody in the United States. The Zionist lobby never tires of calling on the State Department to "close their office" despite the fact that we act only as an information office and not as a political office. The Israeli Government has protested to the U.S. Department of State and the White House and other government bodies regarding the right of the Palestinians to open such an office. They describe us as a mere gang of terrorists and try to prevent us from submitting our case and even from talking about it at all in this country. This is because when we present our case we will obtain greater support inside the United States and because the Israelis are afraid of "our information." They want to monpolize the U.S. arena, and particularly the media sector, when it comes to the Middle East.

EXILED PALESTINIAN MAYORS MEET WITH MITTERRAND

PM091543 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 Jan-5 Feb 82 pp 19, 28

[Jamal ar-Rawi interview with exiled Palestinian Mayors Fahd al-Qawasimah of Hebron and Muhammad Milhim of Halhul in Paris -- date not given; weekly does not identify speakers in answers]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is your feeling following your meeting with President Mitterrand?

[Answer] We are glad this meeting took place and pleased that we were the first Palestinians to enter the Elysee Palace in an official capacity, as two mayors elected by our Palestinian people. President Mitterrand knows our clear stand -- that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We met President Mitterrand before, during his visit to the occupied territories in 1978, and again in Paris in 1980 when he was still secretary general of the French Socialist Party. What makes this meeting even more important is that it took place a few weeks before his visit to Israel, which means a great deal in terms of the Palestine problem.

[Question] What did you say to the French president?

[Answer] We explained all the suffering and injustice to which the Palestinian people are being subjected: resettlement, arbitrary arrest, torture, collective punishment, taxes, the annexation of Jerusalem and the annexation of the Golan. We told him that we are in favor of a just peace and that such a peace cannot be achieved as long as the Palestinian people are not given their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their own national soil under the PLO. We also told him that the achievement of peace requires certain conditions, including a balance of power in the area and rectification of the tilt in Israel's favor. We told him that France and the Socialist Party have a major role to play in the international and European spheres with regard to the establishment of peace in the area, that pressure must be brought on the United States to make its policy more balanced and that the PLO must be recognized. Otherwise, peace cannot be realized in the Middle East. In brief, we conveyed to President Mitterrand the aspirations and sufferings of our people and asked him to regard the Palestine problem as the basis for solving the Middle East crisis. Of course, we also asked him to pressure the Israeli Government to allow us to return to our home.

[Question] What do you think of the French attitude toward the Middle East crisis?

[Answer] We all know the attitude of France and the Socialist Party toward our cause. At least it is not hostile, but what is important is not the attitude of France or any other world country but our own attitude, the Arab attitude. What have we done in order to make the attitude of France and other countries more supportive of our cause? The Western countries cannot be expected to change their attitude toward us on their own; we must drive them or compel them to do so if necessary.

[Question] What was your comment on his planned visit to Israel?

[Answer] Of course, we hope the visit will not take place because it will strengthen the extremists in Israel and because it means a blessing of the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan. But we have no illusions and we do not dictate to the French president which country to visit or not to visit. If President Mitterrand has decided to visit Israel, it is not his fault but the fault of us Arabs because we have been unable to dissuade him from the decision.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

LD132226 Kuwait Doemstic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and Acting Minister of Information Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir has returned home from Tunis after participating in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers held at the Arab League headquarters. Shaykh al-Jabir said on his return that the meeting was held at Syria's request to follow up the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly on the Israeli enemy's annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

As reported by the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, Shaykh al-Jabir said: Thank God, the Syrian paper was discussed in a spirit of responsibility and awareness of the dangers threatening this part of our Arab world. He said unanimous agreement was reached on the resolution that was issued which epitomizes Arab cooperation and solidarity.

We only seek a just attitude from the international community toward our just Arab causes, the foremost of which is the Palestine question. He added: All we want is to save the region from further devastation which might even go beyond our Arab world. We do expect the United States to be a big power through its might; we also expect it to be even greater and bigger by abiding by the historical principles and ideals it claims to adhere to. He said that while discussing this question the international community came to realize the big difference between these principles and ideals and their practical implementation, which is characterized by a lack of a spirit of international responsibility and a lack of the concern for safeguarding world peace and security.

He said: I must point out that this and other resolutions -- both past and future -- can never be implemented without Arab solidarity and without devoting all capabilities and resources toward the Arab nation's common objective.

Editorial Scores Resolution

GF161653 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Feb 82 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "That's it, they have condemned it [the United States]"]

[Excerpt] Rest assured gentlemen: The Arab foreign ministers conference held in Tunis has condemned U.S. support for Israel. This must have been an "historic resolution" because it put on record that the Arabs are aware that the United States supports Israel. The resolution makes it seem as though the Arabs had no prior knowledge of U.S. support for Israel, realizing it only after the recent U.S. stand on the annexation of the Golan Heights. They adopted their shy and very gentle resolution -- indeed a resolution that is less objective than any U.S. resolution against the Soviet Union on Afghanistan or Poland.

In any case hopes are now pinned on the committee formed at the conference to reassess relations with countries on the basis of their stands toward our causes. Thus the committee, for instance, may have to call in some witnesses to affirm that the United States is adopting a hostile stand toward us. The committee is objective and cannot be taken in by mere doubts. Moreover, the accused is innocent until his guilt is proven. The United States is being accused by perhaps thousands of martyrs who have been killed by U.S. weapons, by the usurped Palestinian land, by the Palestinian people, by southern Lebanon, by the Golan, by the Iraqi nuclear reactor, by the Saudi skies, by the plundering of Arab wealth and by the independence that has been undermined by U.S. military bases and the facilities for the Rapid Deployment Force.

These accusations have not yet been proven and, therefore, much more proof and more witnesses from the multitudes of the homeless, the persecuted and those whose lands have been usurped are needed. Further Israeli expansion in Arab territory is necessary so that we can be sure the accused has had more than the benefit of the doubt about his conduct, brutality and his flagrant transgression against the Arab independence for which our peoples have struggled.

Thus, after 35 years of U.S. hostility, open participation in the Israeli wars against the Arabs and supplying Israel with all the strength to commit aggression and occupy territories, we merely adopt a resolution to avoid being told: "Shame on you" for adopting a resolution that does not contain such a denunciation.

MINISTER VIEWS POW FAMILY VISITATION PROPOSAL

LD141346 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1238 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Feb (KUNA) -- Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn announced today that Kuwait was not officially notified of being chosen as a headquarters for the exchange visits of the Iranian and Iraqi POW's families. However, he expressed Kuwait's readiness to contribute to the arrangement of such a matter.

In a statement to reporters following the weekly meeting of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers, he said that a representative from the International Red Cross, while visiting Kuwait last week on a different mission, discussed this matter with Kuwaiti officials. A clear picture of this matter has not yet materialized, he said.

The minister added that the matter must now be crystalized and adapted to humanistic objectives. The visits, if implemented, will be the first of their kind in history, according to International Red Cross information. Mr Husayn stressed that more contacts and more coordination are needed. He said if Kuwait were asked to arrange the visits, it would study the proposal and work to participate in it.

Responsible Kuwaiti officials expressed their hope that this move would contribute to softening the relations between the two belligerent countries. Mr Husayn described the visits of the Iraqi-Iranian POW families as a humanitarian operation.

OMAN

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

Muscat Radio Praises Visit

EA170058 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Feb 82

["Under the Spotlight" program, prepared by Mamduh Isma'il]

[Excerpts] Anyone who has been following the development of Omani-Egyptian relations will (?note) that consultations and contacts between the sultanate and Egypt have intensified -- especially during the last 3 months -- through the exchange of messages between His Majesty Sultan Qabus and H.E. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The visit to the sultanate by the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which begins today, is a natural outcome of those consultations and contacts and reflects the two fraternal countries' interests in the causes of their two peoples and of the Arab nation and their following of events and developments in the two arenas of importance to Arab public opinion -- that is, the Gulf and the Middle East arenas.

It is said that stands are indicators of politics. The stands of the wise Omani leadership toward fraternal Egypt are open and known. This was confirmed when Oman refused to sever relations when Egypt began to advance along the road of peace as it had earlier advanced along the road of military struggle to regain the usurped Arab territories. The sultanate rejected all attempts to put pressure on it.

That was not a stand dictated by sentiment; it was a stand based on the tangible Arab reality, namely that the severance of Arab relations with Egypt cannot be anything more than closing embassies. Commercial, economic, cultural and artistic relations continued to flourish between the Arab countries and Egypt. In fact, these relations have grown in the last few years. For this reason, when Oman rejected the severance of relations it was at the same time rejecting an unrealistic act. It rejected the severing of a dear and important part of the Arab body so that it would not falter or grow weak.

The support of the Egyptian leadership for its sister Oman have also been firm and open. It has always supported the sultanate in all its policies, particularly those which see threats to the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula in the Soviet presence in South Yemem. By extending itself across the Red Sea to Ethiopia, this threat is also a threat to Egypt. Indeed, the suspect tripartite alliance which was established last August between South Yemen, Ethiopia and Libya placed Egypt and the sultanate in the same trench with the Gulf Arab states.

The visit to the sultanate by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, following a tour of the United States and four West European capitals, means further consultations and coordination in vital matters connected with the security of the Middle East in order to face up to dangers on all sides. By any standard, the visit brings signs of hope for reviving Arab solidarity, with Egypt as one of its pillars. President Husni Mubarak has announced that Egypt opens its arms to all.

Oman has always been a strong and mature political supporter of Egypt. Egypt has always been a strong and mature political supporter of Oman. Statements made by officials both in Cairo and in Muscat have confirmed this fact. There is a common conviction shared by the two countries, because they face the same danger. It is for this reason that the Egyptian minister of defense said that Egypt would support Oman militarily if it were subjected to communist threats to the security of the Gulf. We said this because of his awareness of the dimensions of this military threat, not only to Egypt's borders, but also to its water resources which are the source of its very life. The crisis contrived by Ethiopia over the Nile waters has not yet been forgotten.

So, when the Egyptian minister of defense calls for drawing up an Arab strategy to ensure the security of the Red Sea and free the region of the Soviets' influence over the entrance to this sea through its presence in Aden and on part of the sea's western shores in Ethiopia, he is in fact calling for the protection of the strategic depth of the Gulf states and of those of the Arabian peninsula as well as for the protection of one of the vital arteries for transporting oil in the region. It is a call for the creation of stability along the western side of the peninsula. This is what the sultanate is working to achieve in cooperation with the GCC countries throughout our region, not just in the Red Sea area.

There is no doubt that the eyes of the Arabs, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf -- indeed, the eyes of the whole world are now turned toward Oman, especially in view of the fact that President Mubarak is accompanied by a high-level delegation and the fact that important talks will be conducted between the country's sultan and the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The talks will concentrate on the situation in the Middle East, the Arab situation and international problems. The guide and mentor will listen directly to (?an explanation) about the Egyptian stand regarding negotiations on Palestinian autonomy. This firm and declared stand was the common denominator of all the talks conducted by President Husni Mubarak during his American-European tour. Egypt will not abandon any national Arab right. It is also certain that a major part of the talks will concentrate on the strong and cordial relations linking Oman and Egypt at the leadership, governmental and popular levels.

The outcome of the visit and the effects of the constructive cooperation between Muscat and Cairo will soon be manifested in the course of events, because it is a kind of cooperation which has demonstrated in the past that it is adding bricks to the edifice of Arab strength [words indistinct]. All the positive effects of the cooperation will be reflected in all areas, including the Islamic and nonaligned areas.

What is important is that there are issues which need to have solutions. These can be achieved by quiet, studied and charted political action. His majesty once said that the awakening of consciousness is better than incapable inactivity.

Mubarak's Arrival

EA161538 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Summary] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Oman today for a 2-day official visit. On arrival he was received by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

President Mubarak, who will stay in Al-Alam Palace, Muscat, is accompanied by an official delegation consisting of Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Muhammad Atiyyah, the president's medical adviser; 'Izz ad-Din Mukhtar, secretary general of the president's office; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office of Political Affairs; Muhammad Sa'id ad-Dasuqi, Egyptian ambassador to Muscat; Maj Gen (Muhammad Najat Barakat), chief aide; (Nur ad-Din Farghalp), first secretary to the presidency of the republic; and Kamal ad-Din 'Abd al-'Aziz and 'Abd al-Wahhab Taki, private secretaries.

President Mubarak is also accompanied by a large information and press delegation including 10 chief editors of Egyptian papers.

Talks With Sultan Qabus

NC161831 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The official talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id began at the 'Alam Palace in Muscat this evening. The talks dealt with means of bolstering the fraternal relations between Egypt and Oman in all fields, the Middle East situation, and the efforts to implement a comprehensive peace in the region in light of the results achieved during President Husni Mubarak's tour to the United States and a number of European states.

Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz stated to the radio team in Muscat that President Mubarak reviewed with Sultan Qabus the situation in the region, his talks in the United States and Europe, and the means of sustaining the peace process. He added that views on these topics, on the necessity of working for the stability and security of the Gulf, and on the bolstering of the defense capabilities of its states were identical.

His excellency added that President Mubarak is keen on informing Sultan Qabus, Sudanese President Numayri, and the Somalian President Siad Barre of the steps Egypt undertakes related to the national issues.

President Mubarak invited Sultan Qabus to visit Cairo at a time to be fixed by his majesty the sultan. The radio team says that a joint communique will be issued in both Muscat and Cairo on the results of the talks conducted by President Mubarak and Sultan Qabus.

Mubarak's Departure

NC171030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Muscat, 17 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak left Muscat this morning after a 2-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman at the invitation of Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman.

Yesterday, President Husni Mubarak held two rounds of talks with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, focusing on the Middle East situation, the strategic situation in the area and the situation in the Gulf in light of the talks the president had recently during his tour of six European States and the United States.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL VIEWS REGIONAL ISSUES

PM051329 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 6-12 Feb 82 pp 20, 21

[Hamid as-Siyabi interview with Oman Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qays az-Zawawi in Muscat -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Following the recent events and developments in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia signed a security agreement with Bahrain. Does the Sultanate of Oman intend to sign a similar security agreement?

[Answer] I believe that the recent bilateral agreements, including for example the security agreement between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, are not contradictory to the objectives of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Rather they contribute to the realization of the objectives we desire, namely further security and defense cooperation. I believe the talk about the sultanate signing a bilateral security agreement is premature because so far, we have not discussed the subject with any Gulf state. In any case, the subject will be discussed by the GCC interior ministers. There is no doubt that ideas and views will be put forward at the meeting regarding the drafting of an agreement which will be incorporated in a working paper that will be put to the foreign ministers at their forthcoming meeting in Riyadh in March. That is, if the interior ministers reach an agreement they will present this draft to the conference of the foreign ministers.

[Question] What is your opinion of the recent events in Bahrain?

[Answer] Our interest in security matters and the security paper we submitted to the GCC at the meeting that preceded the first summit in Abu Dhabi stem from our belief that there are certain cells in some Gulf states that threaten the security and stability of the area. In order to prevent this we asked the GCC member states to prepare a security paper. This was discussed at several GCC meetings with the aim of exchanging views on it and on other security papers. If we do not incease security coordination and seek to sign a comprehensive security agreement, we will be allowing these cells to become more active.

[Question] Much was said about Iran's involvement in the Bahrain events, and Bahraini officials confirmed such involvement. Do you believe that these incidents confirm the view that Iran has designs on the countries of the area and that it is going ahead with exporting its revolution?

[Answer] There is no doubt that, according to information we received from the State of Bahrain, Iran was involved in the recent events in Bahrain. However, we cannot say whether this is the policy of the Iranian Government or that some groups in Iran are behind these activities and are acting on behalf of the Iranian Government in sending these terrorist groups to the countries of the area. There is nothing so far to confirm whether this is an Iranian Government policy or just the actions of some extremist elements in Iran.

[Question] Have the GCC member states received an official denial from the Iranian Government of what has been described as Iranian involement in these events?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] It is often said that the Sultanate of Oman has played the role of an intermediary in supplying Iraq with Egyptian arms and spare parts. How true is this?

[Answer] There has been no direct action by the Sultanate of Oman on the supply of arms to Iraq but there have been contacts in this regard on the part of Iraq. We know that Egypt has responded to these contacts and supplied the arms. We in Oman, like everybody else, have this from news reports. What is true is that several countries have taken part in the contacts between Egypt and Iraq for this purpose.

[Question] Following recent years, officials in Bahrain said there is a need to establish a rapid deployment force for the Gulf states. Do you believe the establishment of such a force in the countries of the area is justifiable, and does the sultanate support the establishment of such a force?

[Answer] We heard this from the news agencies and later from our brothers in Bahrain. There is no doubt that we support the establishment of such a force, and at the same time we believe more contacts should be held so that the Gulf countries will come forward with a joint plan to be put to the summit for discussion. The sultanate supports the idea.

[Question] Recently a Gulf military mission visited the sultanate and it was said that the visit was made at the recommendation of the chiefs of staff of the GCC countries. What did the visit achieve?

[Answer] In fact, the visit by the Gulf military mission was a practical step toward the achievement of further military cooperation and security coordination. The mission visited several military installations and its members met with Omani officials who explained the extent of the dangers threatening the security of the GCC countries, including the dangers resulting from the intensive Soviet military presence in the Indian Ocean and South Yemen, and the sort of danger that this presence poses and its threat to the safety, security and stability of the countries of the area. The Omani officials also explained to the mission members the sultanate's plan to boost its defense capabilities by establishing area air cover consisting of reconnaisance planes, ground bases and surface-to-air missiles. They also acquainted the mission members with the situation and informed them that the sultanate is going ahead with this cover because of its sense of the danger threatening all GCC countries.

[Question] You indicated in a presvious statement that the sultanate welcomes the opening of a PLO office in Oman, but it appears that the PLO has not applied to open such an office. What is the reason, in your view?

[Answer] In fact, there is a Palestinian desire to open an office in Oman and the sultanate welcomes the idea of opening such an office. But the sultanate has set the condition that the PLO should stop its support for the so-called Front for the Liberation of Oman and sever all ties with those saboteurs who use South Yemen territory as hideouts after the sultanate has been able to clear the mountains of Dhofar of their defiling presence. When this happens the sultanate will be quite ready to allow the PLO to open an office. This attitude, however, does not mean that the sultanate dissociates itself from its Arab commitments toward the Palestinians. The sultanate still demands Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the right of the Palestinians to return to their land and to establish an independent state of their own with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Question] The sultanate maintains good relations with Egypt. What is you view of the future of Egyptian-Arab relations after the Israeli withdrawal from occupied Sinai?

[Answer] The talk about the future of Arab-Egyptian relations is still premature despite the signs engendering optimism. I believe that Egypt's regaining of occupied Arab territories without war is a victory and a political gain. We hope that the restoration of Sinai will be a prelude to restoring all the occupied Arab territories so that, God willing, a comprehensive victory will be achieved. So let us wait for the date fixed for the withdrawal from Sinai, after which matters will clarify. I believe that Egypt, as an Arab country, is as anxious to be close to the Arabs as much as the Arabs are anxious to be close to Egypt. Rallying together, cooperation and solidarity have proved with time to be effective weapons, and I believe the Arabs are now going through a period in which they direly need to possess and use this weapon.

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTER ALLUDES TO POSSIBLE ECONOMIC BOYCOTT

LD141104 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has stated that Israel will never accept peace except through a military defeat or the adoption by the European countries and the United States of a stand close to that of the Arab principles.

In a statement to the Saudi paper 'UKAZ, published today, the prince said that inter-Arab differences encourage Israel to take arbitrary action.

Asked if economic ties, particularly with the United States are the cause of the weakness of the Arab position, Prince Sa'ud said that differences [as heard] which aim at serving the Arab causes can never harm the interests of the Arab countries. He added that the Arab economic boycott which the Gulf countries observed in 1973 can be repeated in the future should circumstances make it necessary.

OFFICIAL DEFENDS NEW SAUDI-U.S. JOINT COMMITTEE

LD151250 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 15 Feb (SPA) -- Dr Muhammad 'Abdu Yamani, minister of information, has stressed that the task of the Saudi-U.S. joint committee established during the recent visit of U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to the kingdom will be confined to following up the kingdom's military purchases from and the projects with the United States. Whatever else has been said has no foundation whatsoever.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY carried today, he expressed astonishment at the nonsense and speculation circulated by some information media regarding the composition of the committee and its tasks.

He said the doubts raised about the kingdom's policy and its objectives by certain newspapers, known for their connections with foreign powers, is totally rejected by the kingdom.

The minister of information added that such poison arrows directed against the kingdom's policy would be better directed against the common enemy occupying the Arab territories than tampering with Islamic dignity and sanctities.

He stressed: The kingdom's policy is not hidden from anyone. No secret or declared agreements have ever been concluded at the expense of our Arab and Islamic nation and our stands have always been frank and clear; we have shouldered our responsibility with complete faithfulness and honesty to the Arab and Islamic nation's causes.

Dr Yamani said: "We will continue on this path, God willing, and we will not take any notice of any nonsense stirred up by malicious people, since we, thank God, believe in our mission completely, and we trust in our people's and nation's awareness and comprehension of the truth and the dimensions of these irresponsible distortions."

INVOLVEMENT WITH PDRY SUBVERSIVES DENIED

LD151924 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1852 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Feb (SPA) -- His excellency the minister of information, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, has denied an AFP report today saying that a group of PDRY citizens are being trained on Saudi Arabian territory to carry out subversive acts in the PDRY.

In a statement to SPA, his excellency said the kingdom has no connection whatsoever with such groups. Also, it does not permit the use of its territory for conspiring against any Arab state, this being in line with its faith, values, principles and policy which is based on noninterference in the domestic affairs of any state and also of its consideration for the ties which bring together the sons of the Arab nation in neighborliness.

Dr 'Abduh Yamani affirmed that our responsibilities make it imperative on our part to foil the opportunity for such malicious people who persist in sowing discord and dividing the ranks by spreading fabricated lies.

MORE DIPLOMATIC CONFRONTATION WITH U.S. URGED

PM121641 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 7 Feb 82 p 3

[Editorial: "A Successful Experiment at the United Nations"]

[Excerpts] Compared to other Arab efforts, Saudi diplomacy played a distinguished role in the UN lobbies prior to the vote on the Arab draft resolution on an international boycott of Israel. This role was to directly confront U.S. diplomatic pressure on UN members to prevent their voting for the draft resolution.

The success of the Saudi special efforts against the U.S. moves at the United Nations, and the positive results achieved by the Arab group there as a result of the Saudi efforts, call for more direct diplomatic confrontation with the international forces opposing Arab rights and supporting Israel at the expense of the UN Charter and international law, especially with the United States at the United Nations.

The result achieved by the Arab group was honorable and it encourages more of the same. It is also an indication that other international groups are willing to support the Arab cause and to be fair to the Arabs in their conflict with Israel if the Arab group moves and plays its diplomatic role at the international level, as Saudi Arabia has done. The effective Saudi role has succeeded in containing pressure by the United States and other pro-Israel forces. The international groups are not embarrassed to support the Arabs and their legitimate rights.

Despite U.S. attempts to prevent the international community from taking that step, the community decided that its responsibility for world peace and security and for the protection of the rights of member states dictated that it should impose deterrent sanctions on Israel even if the latter was supported by the strongest and richest state in the world.

The UN resolution providing for a ban on Israel is at the same time an ultimatum of isolation to Israel. It significantly shows that the United States cannot carry out its threat to withdraw from the United Nations, because regardless of the degree of support for Israel, it will not go so far as to boycott or confront the entire international community for the sake of a corrupt and aggressive member, Israel. Wisdom is finally bound to prevail in U.S. policy; and the day will come when the United States will end its alignment with Israel because it simply cannot afford to lose its national interests throughout the world for the sake of Israel, which constantly takes from the United States, but gives it hardly anything in return.

We believe that a repetition of the experiment of confronting U.S. influence at the United Nations with effective efforts similar to the distinguished role played by Saudi Arabia is necessary for steering the United Nations along the road charted by its resolution imposing sanctions against Israel, until the day the United Nations will be able to isolate Israel and until the day the United States will find itself faced with only two options: winning Israel and losing the whole world or vice versa. If it wins Israel and loses the world it will lose international peace and security. The opposite is also true.

It was a successful experiment and it should be repeated.

UAE

AL-FAJR WELCOMES MUBARAK'S VISIT TO OMAN

GF161147 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0625 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Feb (WAM) -- AL-FAJR welcomes the visit Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will make to Oman today and says the visit is especially significant because of its timing and because "it emphasizes the Egyptian leadership's new policy. The visit gives special importance to consultations between Egypt and the Arab countries that Egypt can contact to discuss matters concerning Arab interests in general."

In today's editorial, the newspaper lauds the Egyptian president's recent tour of the United States and Europe. It also praises his statements during this tour in which he said -- and more importantly while in the White House -- that he would not sign anything the Palestinians will not be satisfied with and that real peace lies in the resolution of the Palestinian problem, a move that has worried and annoyed the Israeli leadership.

AL-FAJR continues: "Whatever issues are discussed during the talks in Muscat, no doubt they will have an Arab color and will be in the Arab nations' interest. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id is a prestigious Gulf and Arab figure. The consultations between the two leaders will deal with developments and what the Arab nation needs next. This confirms that the policy that will be adopted is Arab and authentic. This policy deserves more Arab support and encouragement so Egypt will return to the Arab nation and so solidarity will be restored and Arab rights regained."

PDRY

'ALI NASIR LEAVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO CUBA

EA151534 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, left Aden at noon today to lead a high-level party and government delegation to Havana, where tomorrow he begins an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Cuba at the invitation of Comrade Fidel Castro, secretary general of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the councils of State and Ministers in Cuba.

The delegation accompanying the secretary general includes Brothers 'Ali Shayi Hadi, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and head of the Supreme Party Control Committee; 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib, member of the USP Central Committee and deputy prime minister; Salim Salim Muhammad, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign minister; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and Minister of public health; Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli, minister of trade and supply; and others.

The brother secretary general was seen off at Aden International Airport by the brother members of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee and ministers in addition to senior armed forces commanders and a number of heads of mission accredited to Aden.

CAIRO PAPERS COMMENT ON MUBARAK'S OMAN VISIT

NC170734 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2157 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA) -- In their Wednesday editions, Cairo papers highlight in their commentaries President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Sultanate of Oman and his talks with Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Sultanate of Oman comes at a time when Egypt has affirmed that it is always eager to restore Arab solidarity and ready to receive the Arabs at any time. It says Egypt has never abandoned Arabism and never disavowed its Arab affiliation, on the grounds that Egypt's Arabism is its fate and not a choice.

The paper adds: It is not logically acceptable that Egypt should choose between peace with Israel and Arab affiliation, because peace is a path, a course and a policy, and Arab affiliation is a fate and an inescapable reality.

It adds that the Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of Sultan Qabus, believed from the beginning in Egypt's Arabism and its pioneering role throughout history.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that there is no doubt that every Arab who belongs to his nation and cares for the solidarity of its people is looking with great interest at President Mubarak's visit to Oman and his talks with Sultan Qabus.

AL-AKHBAR describes the meeting between President Mubarak and Sultan Qabus as the beginning of a new stage in joint Arab action and the beginning of an era for protecting and safeguarding the future of the Arab homeland and the Arab nation in its great homeland.

The paper adds that the talks between President Mubarak and Sultan Qabus must go beyond bilateral relations to embrace the issues of the Middle East, the Gulf region and the Arab stand. Consequently, they must achieve positive results that will protect the Middle East from foreign infiltration and establish peace and security throughout the region.

The paper describes Egyptian-Omani bilateral relations as the best that could exist between two fraternal states. It praises Sultan Qabus, who stands with Egypt with an open heart and evaluates matters on the basis of what can possibly achieve Arab interests and does not accept outbiddings and slogans. It adds that Qabus was the first Arab ruler who introduced an Arab plan for the protection of the Gulf region and the first to respond to Egypt's call for the use of military facilities to defend the Gulf states.

AL-AKHBAR concludes its commentary by referring to the importance of the talks and the subjects of this visit, which comes after President Mubarak's tour to the United States and West Europe.

COMMENTATOR VIEWS RETURN OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS

PM120947 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 6 Feb 82 p 8

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article]

[Text] Washington -- Egypt announced that it asked for a number of Soviet experts to work in some Egyptian factories whose machinery was imported from the Soviet Union several years ago. There was nothing more to this report than what it actually says. Nevertheless, the report has caused great repercussions in many world capitals particularly in the U.S. capital.

There has been a great deal of comment on it. They have said that under Mubarak's regime Egypt intends to open its doors to receive Soviet experts once again. They have said that the first sign of the policy of nonalignment, which Egypt has renewed its commitment to, is to have ties with the Soviet Union that are as close as those with the United States. They have also said that this was the greatest change in President Husni Mubarak's policy, which aims at removing Egypt from the U.S. trap in order to free its military, economic, and political action by restoring a balance once again between the two superpowers so that it is not at the mercy of any power or the clash between powers.

It is not in Egypt's interest to be hostile to anybody. Egypt often severed relations with many countries because of nervous stands, international disputes or local conflicts. This was a tradition created by the late leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir in the first years of the 23 July Revolution and continued throughout his regime. We severed relations many times with European countries, some Arab countries and the United States and restored these relations only to sever them once again at the first sign of differences.

Therefore I do not see any benefit in severing relations with any friendly or unfriendly country. Countries can disagree and even lie in wait for one another, yet they maintain diplomatic and mutual economic relations, with each country insisting on its own stance and on obtaining its own rights.

We therefore, welcome a review of our relations with all countries we have had disputes or differences with so that these can be settled and relations normalized, even with countries that have caused us deliberate and malicious material or moral losses. It is logical that we should be able to preserve our rights in relation to any country with which we have a dispute without severing relations with it, something we cannot do when relations are severed or frozen.

We do not forget what the Soviets have done to us. When our relations with the West became tense and we stood up for our sovereignty and rights we were compelled to extend our hand to the East. The Soviet Union welcomed the offer and in no time Egypt became fully dependent on the Soviet Union, especially in the arming of our armed forces, and the Soviet Union became our only source of arms and military hardware. It gave us the quantity it chose to, not the quantity our forces needed.

Reliance on the Soviet Union was not confined to armaments only but also included the whole Egyptian economy. There came a time when we were dependent on the Soviet Union militarily, economically, politically, and ideologically. We do not forget those days and we must not forget them.

The Soviets were our allies, but they would not let us make friends with those who were not friendly with them or cooperate with those who threatened or condemned them.

What they did to As-Sadat was worse than what they did to 'Abd an-Nasir. History books are filled with the events of that gloomy period. The two late leaders often lost their tempers in anger and resentment. This was what prompted President as-Sadat to free Egypt from the iron fist, to restore relations with the remaining world countries and to deal with them on an equal footing.

The Soviet Union rejected the Egyptian mutiny and relations gradually deteriorated until they were completely frozen. In the meantime cooperation between Egypt and the Western world, particularly the United States, increased as relations with the Eastern camp, headed by the Soviet Union, deteriorated.

This was neither necessary nor desirable ; it is not in Egypt's interest for its relations with a superpower to be frozen the way they were with the Soviet Union. Also it is not in its interest for its relations with the Soviet Union to be restored to the state they were in before they were severed, whereby the Soviets humiliated the Egyptians and made their leaders lose their self-control in anger.

What is required is that there be normal relations, like the customary relations that exist among all independent states that respect one another. The United States, for example, is hostile to the Soviet Union, is in a race with it and is trying to contain it. Despite all this, there are relations between the two countries and cooperation in all fields, even though their sharp disputes never stop, disputes that have often taken them to the brink of war.

This is what Egypt is doing now. It welcomes a new cooperation with the Soviet Union, cooperation different from the usual old one, normal relations like those between all countries, including those who fight one another and lie in wait for one another. It is not necessary for the Egyptian and Soviet peoples to embrace and it is not expected that the two countries will become allies and close. What is necessary and expected is to thaw the frozen barrier separating them so that the two countries can cooperate just like other countries cooperate.

Some people in the United States did not quite understand the straightforward announcement by Egypt that it had asked for a number of Soviet experts. Most of the questions put to President Husni Mubarak in Washington revolved around this reported announcement, trying to get to know more about it and its implications, as though Egypt wanted to repeat its previous experience and restore cooperation with the Soviet Union at the expense of deteriorating relations with the United States. Or as though Egypt had not learned hard lessons from its previous bitter experience. Or as though, by importing a number of Soviet civilian experts to work in its factories, it has opened its borders so that thousands of military, economic, political and ideological experts will pour into the country, as in the past.

President Mubarak has fully explained to all the Americans, politicians or journalists, the facts about the sensational report that has astonished and aroused the curiosity of many people more than other more important and serious reports.

With a few specific words President Mubarak was able to put the report in the right context and to calm the uproar it caused.

MENA REPORTER DETAILS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLANS

NC170727 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1712 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA) -- The MENA representative to the informational delegation which visited the area from which Israel is to withdraw by 25 April has written the following:

The Israeli forces are currently dismantling their camps in the areas of (Al-Jurah) and Sharm ash-Shaykh and transporting them to the Negev Desert, preparatory to completing the final phase of complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai on 25 April.

In the area of (Al-Jurah) in northern Sinai, work is going on to complete the camps that will accommodate the multinational force and the headquarters of the commander in chief and the force's command staff.

Two regiments [katibatan] consisting of 1,200 Fijians and Colombians will be stationed in the (Al-Jurah) area.

An Egyptian-Israeli committee is scheduled to meet before the end of February to complete the demarcation of Egypt's international border in the area of Tabah, according to the 1906 agreement.

The arrangements for turning over the city of Nuwaybi', which is located on the Red Sea, on 25 February are currently being made so that an Egyptian tourist company can purchase and operate the tourist villages in the city as of 26 April.

The Israeli settlers are also being evacuated from the city of Dhahab in the Sharm ash-Shaykh military airport [as received] to a civilian area. The same thing is also happening in Ra's Nasrani airport, which is close to the city.

The MENA representative says that the Israeli military forces are currently being evacuated from the islands of Sanafir and Tiran preparatory to their returning to Egyptian sovereignty as an indivisible part of area C. According to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Egyptian civilian police forces will be stationed on them.

Meanwhile, a responsible Egyptian source has told MENA that in accordance with the peace treaty no Israeli will be present in Sinai after 25 April, but only Egyptians and the multinational force, which will be stationed in the two areas specified for them -- (Al-Jurah) and Sharm ash-Shaykh. The source said that no joint projects will be carried out in Sinai, but rather all the development projects will be carried out there by Egyptian workers and experts. He said that an Egyptian delegation consisting of representatives of the ministries concerned will leave for southern Sinai on 25 February to take over the installations that have been purchased and to stay there from that date to operate and develop all the utilities there before and after the withdrawal and to connect them with the Nile valley.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS SINAI FORCE LEADER

NC152140 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali met tonight with the director general of the multinational force in Sinai, Leamon Hunt, and the force's commander in chief, [Lt Gen Fredrik V.] Bull-Hansen. Issues related to the arrival of the force on 20 March, its formations, and the duties of the states participating in it were discussed at this meeting. It is known that the force will follow up the situation after the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April.

ISRAELI INFORMATION DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC141816 Cairo MENA in English 1802 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA) -- An Israeli information delegation arrived here today on a five-day visit.

The delegation will be received by Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali as well as other senior officials.

The 12-man delegation will visit the premises of AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR dailies as well as the television and radio buildings.

EGYPT, ISRAEL SIGN RADIO-TV COOPERATION PROTOCOL

NC161545 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] A protocol on informational cooperation in the domains of radio and television was signed today between the Egyptian radio and television union and the Israeli radio and television authority. The protocol provides for the exchange of radio and television programs reflecting cultural and scientific phenomena as well as news programs that shed light on important events in the two countries. The protocol also provides for the exchange of expertise and delegations and the development of relations and cooperation in the fields of radio and television. The protocol will come into effect as soon as it is signed and extend for a period of 2 years; the protocol is renewable.

ASSEMBLY DELEGATION COMPLETES EUROPEAN TOUR

NC161723 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1649 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA) -- Chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this afternoon after a 10-day visit to Yugoslavia and Italy.

Following his arrival, Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah announced that the goal of his visit to Yugoslavia was to activate bilateral relations on all levels, to enhance the role of the Nonaligned Movement, and to participate, through the Nonaligned Movement, in sustaining international security and stability.

Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah added that during his visit to Italy he met with former prime minister and chairman of the Italian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Giulio Andreotti, and reviewed together the positive results of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Europe and the United States. They discussed aspects of Egyptian-Italian cooperation in particular and Egyptian-European cooperation in general as well as the role Europe should play to give impetus to the process of achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PRAISES MUBARAK IN MAY

NC150821 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) -- Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo has praised President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, describing him as an extraordinary and mighty negotiator. He also expressed his appreciation of the Egyptian president, his personal manner, his humanitarian behavior and high diplomatic abilities.

In an interview with the newspaper MAY published today, Colombo emphasized Italy's and the European Community's readiness to play a sincere role in any initiatives conducive to the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East at any time the parties concerned request them to do so.

He also affirmed the importance of Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai on 25 April, pointing out that after the withdrawal, the course of events will be followed with great interest, taking into consideration the initiatives that emerge in the Arab world.

In this respect, Colombo emphasized his country's support for all the parties which work honestly and seriously for the establishment of peace in the region.

Colombo said: In Italy, we are following with great interest the courageous task which President Mubarak is undertaking for the unification of all the political forces in Egypt under his leadership.

He pointed out that President Mubarak's recent visit to Rome took place at a time when the relations between the two countries and the developments of events in the Middle East region were of particular significance.

The Italian foreign minister described the relations between Egypt and Italy as excellent and characterized by a spirit of mutual confidence and cooperation. The actions of the two governments are guided by an awareness of the reality of the situation -- a matter which strengthens the two governments' sense of responsibility for the preservation of peace in the region.

U.S. SENATORS MEET WITH MUBARAK ON ARMS

NC151156 Cairo MENA in English 1135 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received today the delegation of the U.S. Senate Military Affairs Committee currently visiting here.

The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton.

Atherton stated following the meeting which lasted for an hour that they followed up military talks held by Mubarak in Washington. Atherton added the delegation will leave tonight for Israel and later for Oman sultanate within short visits to the states of the area.

NDP MEMBER SENTENCED IN DRUG CONVICTION

NC142317 Paris AFP in English 2303 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo 14 Feb (AFP) -- A member of parliament was sentenced to 15 years in prison yesterday for smuggling 5.5 tons of hashish into Egypt last April, newspapers reported here this morning.

He is Mahmud Sulayman 'Uthman, of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP).

A brother was also sentenced to 15 years. The MP's father and another brother were sentenced to ten years.

The prosecutor had asked that all four be executed.

DISSIDENT VIEWS MUBARAK, CAMP DAVID, ECONOMY

GF162049 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Feb 82 p 12

[Interview granted to AL-BAYAN correspondent in Cairo by Fathi Radwan, Egyptian opposition leader and minister during the 'Abd an-Nasir era -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Despite the imposition of martial law under President Mubarak, are there any major differences between his regime and As-Sadat's?

[Answer] Up to now, the difference lies in the personal characteristics of both presidents. The new president hasn't had the chance to implement his announced program and show the differences he believes should exist between his regime and the former one. However, his personal demeanor, way of communicating with subordinates and the people reveal different personal, moral and mental characteristics. We hope these characteristics will not be confined to propitious signs and that they will be a guarantee of a new regime outwardly and substantially different from the former regime.

[Question] Fathi Radwan has always been and still is the fiercest antagonist of Camp David and As-Sadat's trip to occupied Jerusalem. Today he is one of the most ardent supporters of coordinated Arab action to liberate the Arab territories from the claws of Israel and to establish an independent national Palestinian state. What is his practical position with respect to the circumstances imposed on President Husni Mubarak and the "remnants" of Camp David?

[Answer] The period that began with As-Sadat's departure for occupied Jerusalem in November 1977 is an exceptional period in the history of Egypt, the Arab countries and the whole world. I believe that the Arab kings and leaders are more prepared now to surmount the circumstances of rupture of relations and to realize the danger to the Arab stand. The Arab leaders and kings must have felt the great void that Egypt's departure from the Arab fold left. Egypt, too, must have realized that is cannot last long without its fraternal states.

[Question] Then do you expect Israel to breach the Camp David accords with Egypt too?

[Answer] The honeymoon between Egypt and Israel did not start before Israel began making statements affirming its intention to confront Egypt. I believe that many U.S. commentators expect something to happen on Israel's part before the final withdrawal from Sinai. This is Israel's permanent style which is based on blackmailing and exploiting the weakness of other parties.

[Question] Once again, we refer to President Husni Mubarak's domestic policies. The essential domestic problem in Egypt is the economic issue. Do you believe the economic conference that President Mubarak has proposed and in which the opposition will participate is a way out?

[Answer] There is no harm in holding the conference, but I do not set great hopes on the conference members. I was a member of the Central Bank Board of Directors for 17 years. I was a colleague of the big names in this "bank of banks" and I can say that my experience does not cause me optimism. They took over an Egypt that had reached a state of semi-collapse with them. Perhaps the desire to upset the ruler is what they lack most. They were surprised by the ruler's decisions that would turn the economy upside down. The ruler did not inform them or seek their counsel. Yet it never occured to them to protest, object or resign.

[Question] What is the solution then?

[Answer] The only solution is for Egypt to accept from the rich Arabs funds that would determine the priorities. In return, Egypt should give a guarantee that these funds would not "deviate" to courses other than serious economic development.

[Question] The opposition is reiterating a call to amend certain articles of the constitution that allowed As-Sadat to sway and become autocratic. What is your opinion?

[Answer] It is in the interest of both the ruler and the subject to rescind all laws that to lawmakers are indescribable such as the "laws" of shame and values, the socialist prosecutor, and political investigation. These are shams that should not remain because they decry the intellect and dignity of the Egyptian. After all, we already have laws that spare us this mockery and ridicule.

BRIEFS

OUTGOING GREEK AMBASSADOR -- Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA) -- Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Sufi Abu Talib received today the Greek Ambassador here on the occasion of the end of his term of duty. Dr Sufi Abu Talib siad that Egypt was looking forward to the role Greece could play in serving the interests of the two countries, especially as far as the peace process in the Mideast is concerned. The Greek Ambassador hailed the Egyptian foreign and home policy. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1210 GMT 8 Feb 82 NC]

CANADIAN NUCLEAR POWER COOPERATION -- Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA) -- Egypt and Canada today opened talks to regulate cooperation between them in the peaceful use of nuclear power. An agreement for nuclear cooperation between the two countries is expected to be initialled on Wednesday, and finally signed in May, MENA learnt. The two sides are to discuss the prospects of cooperation between Egypt and Canada in the field of generating power by nuclear energy and the Canadian know-how's contribution to the Egyptian national nuclear programme and for other industry and agriculture purposes. Ahmad Fahmi 'Abd as-Sattar, executive manager of the Nuclear Stations Authority, led the Egyptian side to the talks while the director of the International Treaties Department at the Canadian Foreign Ministry led the other side. The Canadian official and his delegation arrived here yesterday on a four-day visit to Egypt. [Text] [Cairo, MENA in English 1355 GMT 8 Feb 82 NC]

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, PRC -- The French Government has approved the nomination of Ambassador 'Ali Samir Safwat as Egyptian Ambassador to France. The PRC has also approved the nomination of current ambassador to Sweden 'Umar Sharaf as Egyptian Ambassador to the PRC. [Text] [Cairo, Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 82 NC]

TRADE WITH HUNGARY -- Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA) -- Egypt and Hungary signed here today a protocol of economic and trade cooperation whereby Egypt will obtain $50 million in credit facilities from the Hungarian National Bank to finance 85 percent of their joint ventures; the amount will be repaid over six to ten years. Midhat 'Abd al-Aziz, first undersecretary at the Ministry of Investments and International Cooperation, and the Hungarian deputy minister of foreign trade, currently visiting here, signed the protocol. The joint ventures will cover the fields of agriculture, irrigation, land reclamation reconstruction, industry, electricity, transport and communication. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1455 GMT 2 Feb 82 NC]

NA'IM HADDAD INTERVIEWED ON WAR WITH IRAN

PM151033 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Feb 82 pp 19-20

[Interview granted by Na'im Haddad, chairman of the Iraqi National Council and member of the Revolution Council, to AL-MAJALLAH Gulf Bureau in Kuwait during recent Arab Parliamentary Union meeting]

[Text] [Question] What are the conditions that have led to King Husayn calling for volunteers in Jordan to help Iraq?

[Answer] Since the beginning of the Iranian aggression and since Iraq's resistance to such aggression, sisterly Jordan has adopted an honorable stand toward Iraq and considered it as fighting for the Arab nation. This has been confirmed by King Husayn's actions and frequent visits to Iraq and to the battlefield. During one of his visits to the front he fired one artillery shell at the Iranian forces as confirmation of his participation in the battle. The Jordanian stand has become stronger, which was natural, since the war has been going on a long time and all the Arabs felt that this was a war of attrition against Iraq whose army took part in all the national battles, both in the 1967 aggression and the 1973 war. The strengthening of the Jordanian stand by enlisting volunteers followed King Husayn's recent visit to Iraq. The escalation of the Jordanian stand reflects the conscience of the Arab nation. One feels that the battles of the nation in all the Arab countries are his own battle and that defending every usurped inch of Arab land, be it in Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Jordan, Libya or Mauritania, is defending his own land and that the Arab people are his own people.

King Husayn's volunteering and his readiness to form Al-Yarmuk forces [to fight alongside Iraq] are a confirmation of national participation and a high sense of national responsibility in the face of the onslaught which has gone beyond the war with Iraq to aggression against the Arab Gulf area. Very recently, hostile demonstrations were staged by the Persian communities in Dubai and Qatar. For some time the Iranian regime has been training its men and sending them to the Arab Gulf area. Such training is still continuing in the Ahvaz area; it includes training in taking over power with the help of Iranian communities in the Gulf.

[Question] Do you believe that King Husayn's decision has come late considering that it came 18 months after the beginning of the war?

[Answer] In fact, from the early days of the war King Husayn offered Jordan's participation in it but President Saddam Husayn did not respond to King Husayn's request and his insistence on it because he was sure of the capabilities of the Iraqi Army. King Husayn recently visited Iraq and the training camps where he met with the young volunteers, and he went back to Amman to announce his decision.

[Question] Are there any other Arab countries considering inviting volunteers?

[Answer] The Iraqi people and the Iraqi soldiers are embittered by the attitude of certain Arab regimes that do not hesitate to help Iran against Iraq.... I believe that our Arab people are quite ready to carry arms on the side of Iraq. In fact Iraq is not in need of man since hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have volunteered. But what matters is the national dimension of the battle and the need for the Iraqi citizen not to feel bitter as a result of fighting the war alone, which would then make him withdraw into his shell.

[Question] What is your comment on Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's statement criticizing the Jordanian step?

[Answer] Certainly anyone giving military aid to the Iranian regime would oppose the honorable attitude adopted by King Husayn. But we believe the Arab people in the Arab homeland are aware of the details of the national battle and are ready to participate in it.

[Question] Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud visited Baghdad last summer as part of the Libyan endeavor for reconciliation with Iraq. What are the details of the Libyan-Iraq contacts and how much progress have they made?

[Answer] Iraq is committed to a national policy which is a constant in the Ba'th Party line. The Ba'th Party cares greatly about the unity of the Arab ranks and the Arab stand in the face of the challenges confronting our nation. But certain Arab regimes have sided with the Persian enemy against the Arab nation and the Iraqi people and their rights. We have no doubt that -- and this is a central point in our relations with the others -- if they rectify their stand and stop harming the Arab nation and give up their hostile stand toward their nation, Iraq will extend its hand to all of them so as to achieve unity in the ranks and Arab solidarity. We expect everybody to be true to the Arab nation and to themselves.

[Question] How long do you expect the conflict between Iraq and Syria to continue?

[Answer] In fact Syria supports Iran, and there is much material evidence of this. Once the Syrian regime gives up such activities and follows the right path you can then ask me when Arab skies will clear and the unity of the Arab ranks will be restored. Iraqi soldiers defended Damascus and the bodies of Iraqi soldiers still lie buried in the Golan Heights.

[Question] Nevertheless, do not you think there are common denominators between Iraq and Syria and there is common ground for understanding?

[Answer] We do not think there are common denominators between us and the Syrian regime for more than one reason....

[Question] What is your analysis of the existence of Syrian missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley and of the stationing of the Arab Deterrent Force [ADF] in Lebanon?

[Answer] My own analysis of the existence of Syrian missiles in the Al-Biqa' Valley and the continued presence of the Syrian forces [in Lebanon] is that the Syrian regime has expansionist ambitions in the Lebanese territories and considers Lebanon part of Syria.

[Question] You said that the Iranian regime is about to fall. When do you expect this to happen?

[Answer] The Iranian regime is now considered to have fallen because any regime to which the people are opposed cannot be protected by repression. The present situation in Iran now is very shaky. Its economic situation is in tatters as there are 5 million unemployed and 3 million homeless refugees. The courts of inquisition are continuing their daily executions. It is a bloody fascist regime. The Iranian people that toppled the agent shah cannot possibly accept this regime and cannot but resist it. The evidence is the fact that presidents and prime ministers have been assassinated one after the other and the conflict between those in power is still raging.

[Question] Do you believe the establishment of a powerful central authority in Iran would help to end the war regardless of its political inclinations?

[Answer] I believe this bloody-mindedness can never consider the interests of the Iranian people and the area. I believe the downfall of this regime is inevitable, but I cannot be specific as to when this will happen.

[Question] Does Iraq have relations with Iranian opposition factions?

[Answer] There are thousands of Iranians, Persians, Kurds, Arabs and other nationalities in Iraq.

[Question] Do you mean opposition organizations?

[Answer] We say that we are ready to support the Iranian opposition.

[Question] Are there Iranian opposition groups that are ready to receive such support?

[Answer] I believe so because if they want to topple this bloody regime they must cooperate with Iraq. Any new regime that may come about must think of ending the war. Therefore, it is necessary that we should have positive relations with the Iranian opposition.

[Question] Which, in your view, are the Iranian opposition organizations that are ready to take power?

[Answer] The Mojahedin-e Khalq as well as the Kurdish nationalist movements and the Popular Liberation Front of Arabistan.

[Question] What was the actual attitude of the Arabs in Ahvaz and did they fight alongside the Iraqi forces?

[Answer] The majority of the inhabitants of Arabistan in areas where there are Iraqi forces cooperate with us and some of them fought with the Iraqi forces.

[Question] Recently there was an agreement in principle between you and Iran for the exchange of visits to prisoners. Are you demanding the exchange of visits to prisoners in accordance with your lists of prisoners or the Iranian lists?

[Answer] We demand the number of prisoners which the Persian regime announces that it has; they are all recorded by us. According to information available to us many prisoners have been killed.

[Question] Let us move on to talk about Soviet-Iraqi relations. In past years these relations have been through ups and downs. Where do these relations now stand and do you expect them to continue?

[Answer] Our relations with the Soviet friends are relations of friendship and equality; the friendship and cooperation agreement between Iraq and the Soviet Union confirms the eqaulity of relations between the two peoples and countries. The independence of the Iraqi stand is well understood and under no circumstances can it be changed. For its part, Iraq confirms its friendship and cooperation with the Soviet side. I believe there is a common denominator between the two countries which lies in the common struggle against imperialism. The interests of both people lie in cooperation and in benefiting from Soviet expertise in order to achieve social progress in Iraq. There are also economic benefits to cooperating with the Soviets. In light of this understanding of Soviet-Iraqi relations, we cannot say they have passed through different stages because from the beginning they have been based on a clear understanding.

[Question] Have the Soviets continued to supply Iraq with arms?

[Answer] Our relations with the socialist states have remained the same, and this is the case in relations with the Soviet Union. Following the visit by Comrade Taha Yasin [first deputy prime minister] Moscow understood the facts regarding Iraq's independent stand and Iraq's role in the area.

[Question] Have the negative changes in Iran helped to increase Soviet understanding of Iraq's situation?

[Answer] It used to be said that the Soviets believe that the Iraqi regime is weak and isolated from the people. They said other things as well. But it appears that events have proved the contrary. The Iraqi regime is a revolutionary regime interacting with the masses. Otherwise, how would we ezplain the volunteering of hundreds of thousands people to fight in the war? There is a greater understanding by the Soviets now; they have understood the truth about this nationalism [qawmi] regime which is backed by the Iraqi masses. Of course, our Soviet friends have their own policies and strategies and we have our own policies and strategies. As I said a while ago, our relations with them do not go beyond the limits of friendship and joint cooperation. [sentence as published]

[Question] Have the Soviets supplied Iran with arms during the war?

[Answer] I have no information on this. There are economic relations between them.

[Question] What about your relations with France?

[Answer] They are normal relations.

[Question] I mean specifically the question of the Iraqi nuclear reactor and whether they have agreed to rebuild it?

[Answer] I would like to reveal a fact, which is that Iraqi brains and Arab brains are now capable of rebuilding the reactor without the help of France or any other party.

[Question] What does Iraq have to say about endeavors to bring Egypt back into the Arab fold?

[Answer] None of us denies Egypt's weight in the trenches of the Arab struggle. This is fundamental to the structure of the Arab nation. Egypt is an important Arab country, but at the hands of As-Sadat it took the wrong path with the signing of the Camp David accords and the visit to Jerusalem. Therefore, I always believe that it is the duty of every Arab nationalist who wants the Arab nation to be able to face the challenges to also want Egypt to be in the Arab fold. The only obstacle to Egypt's return to the Arab nation is the Camp David agreement. If Egypt gets rid of it then there will be no obstacle to its return to the Arab fold.

[Question] How do you view the present regime in Egypt?

[Answer] Egypt is waiting for 25 April, the date of the final withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Sinai. We are also waiting to see where Egypt will stand after that date.

GDR'S KLEIBER HOLDS ECONOMIC TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

JN151740 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA) -- The visiting deputy premier and minister of general engineering, agricultural machinery and vehicle building of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Guenther Kleiber, Monday conferred with two Iraqi ministers on means for further promoting ties of cooperation. Mr Kleiber met separately Revolution Command Council member and Minister of Trade Hasan 'Ali and Acting Planning Minister Thamir Razuqi and discussed with them expanding bilateral cooperation in the fields of planning and economy.

The German guest expressed at the two meetings his country's satisfaction over the existing cooperation between Iraq and the GDR and appreciation of Iraq's peaceful initiatives to end the 17-month-old Iraq-Iran war.

Meanwhile the 7th session of Iraq-GDR joint committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation began here to view the possibility of further expanding bilateral cooperation.

Mr 'Ali, who led the Iraqi side, emphasized that convening the committee at this time has a double significance to assure the depth of friendship and mutual confidence between the two countries. The Iraqi official stated that in spite of war, Iraq was continuing its development process with the same spirit and success.

Mr Kleiber, who led his country's side to the committee meetings, said his country attaches considerable significance to the committee's current session which is regarded a sincere continuation to develop economic and political relations between the two countries. The two sides discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, irrigation, health and scientific research for the current year. Four subcommittees were formed to view means for promoting cooperation between the two countries.

SYRIAN OPPOSITION PARTY ISSUES STATEMENT

JN142209 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1920 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Statement issued by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Provisional Regional Command in Syria on 13 February -- place not given]

[Text] Masses of our steadfast people; masses of our glorious Arab nation: The Hafiz al-Asad regime is committing the gravest crime in Hamah today -- a crime unprecedented in its black era. The regime is attacking the struggler and brave town using its air force, artillery and missiles. It is demolishing the houses, quarters and mosques and is desperately trying to suppress every free and honorable voice and to oppress all popular opposition.

Our steadfast and struggler people resorted to armed resistance after being deprived of any natural right to freedom of expression or participation in public life. Our people, in short, are defending their lives, freedoms, honors and beliefs. However, the Hafiz al-Asad regime, which collaborated with the Zionist enemy in Lebanon and which is collaborating with the Persians against fraternal Iraq, has been panic-stricken by our people's resistance. That is why it sought to deal a fatal blow to the township of Abu al-Fida' [Hamah] in order to spread fear and humiliation in Syria and to place before the Syrian people two options: either to immigrate or to submit to terrorism and persecution. There is no need to disclose the far-reaching and grave dimensions of such a vicious policy. It is a policy threatening the collapse of Syria as happened in Palestine or as it is happening in Lebanon.

Therefore, this policy not only harms Syria but it also harms the security of the Arab nation, its present and future. This policy is playing havoc with the primary bases of this nation. Our nation is deriving its ambitions for unity, liberation and dignified life from these bases.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in our struggler country believes that the adoption of the stand, which is dictated by the motives of mankind, conscience and honor, on what is currently taking place in Hamah is a gauge for assessing the candor of those defending freedom, free men and human rights irrespective of their ideological and political affiliation or of their nationality. The party will assess its position toward the stands of the world movements, organizations and figures on what is currently taking place in Syria.

However, based on its faith in the unity of joint Arab fate and its confidence in the unity of the one Arab nation, the Ba'th Party appeals to the Arab governments, organizations, parties and figures to define a stand on what is taking place in Syria, because, as a nation, we must not allow the Palestinian and Lebanese tragedies to recur in Syria without doing anything worth mentioning. It is impermissible to keep silent about the crimes the Al-Asad regime is committing in Syria after its known acts on the pan-Arab level.

While shouldering the burden of confrontation alongside all the other nationalist forces, the Ba'th Party first and foremost urges the Syrian people to accept this historical, national and pan-Arab responsibility and to ask the armed forces, who have been fed and prepared by the people, to confront the external enemy and to side with the people in their fraternal battle.

The Ba'th Party strongly believes that all the national forces, organizations and dignitaries regardless of their ideological and political trends must unite their ranks and concert their efforts to step up all kinds of struggle, particularly their armed struggle against the treasonous regime. Needless to say, the involvement of all parties, organizations and dignitaries in the serious struggle to overthrow the Al-Asad regime is a crucial matter in affirming the broad national front, which is actually capable of wrecking the regime and of setting up a democratic regime in Syria.

The Ba'th Party, which for the past 16 years has been shouldering the pan-Arab burden efficiently and honorably, resisting the despotic regime of Al-Asad and its tools and allies for which it has offered convoys of martyrs and detainees, and which has been opening its heart and mind to serious and fruitful cooperation with any nationalist front opposing the treasonous regime of Al-Asad, pledges to our struggler and steadfast people in Syria as well as to our Arab nation to proceed with its relentless and ceaseless struggle to save Arab Syria by wrecking its treasonous regime. Our party considers the legitimate struggle of its factions on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland in defense of Iraq's sovereignty and dignity against the Persian Shu'ubist regime the same as that of the national factions in Syria against the treasonous regime which is overtly and covertly allied with the Khomeyni clique. The two regimes bear black grudges against Iraq, Arabism and Islam.

Greetings to every struggler fighting the Persians on their traitor allies in Syria; a thousand greetings and, expressions of admiration to the strugglers of Hamah; glory to its innocent martyrs. We are proceeding along the road of struggle toward achieving the inveitable victory. Glory and immortality to our Arab nation.

[Signed] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Provisional Regional Command in Syria, 13 February 1982

VOAS REPORTS ARMED CLASHES IN LATAKIA, ALEPPO

JN142226 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1950 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Armed clashes have erupted anew in the Syrian township of Latakia between the Syrian revolutionaies and Al-Asad forces. The Syrian opposition sources said that exchange of fire is continuing in Aleppo where the nationalist opposition forces have captured the radio station building.

SYRIAN OFFICIAL ADMITS HAMAH CLOSED OFF

JN151926 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] An official spokesman for the Syrian authorities today admitted tht the township of Hamah cannot be visited due to the continued storming operations and armed clashes. In another development, confirmed reports said that the Al-Asad tanks are concentrating their shelling on the old quarters of the town. A general strike was stage in Homs, Aleppo and Latakia, in response to the call made by the nationalist opposition forces. Tension prevails in Aleppo. The township of Muhardah has been encircled because its masses had joined the Hamah uprising.

ISLAMIC REVOLUTION COMMAND CALLS FOR GENERAL STRIKE

JN162313 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Statement by the Islamic Revolution Command in Syria read by command member Shaykh Sa'id Hawwa -- live or recorded; date not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Heroic and dignified people, brothers and sons in our armed forces and security and police forces, citizens wherever you are, people whatever your sect, political organization or professional affiliation might be. Our people's sacrifices and their steadfastness in facing tyranny is now crowned by the fact that all the people regardless of their sects and groups have become a united front affirming the unity of the past, present and future and foiling all the plans drawn up by the tyrant Al-Asad to divide and oppress the people. The tyrant has wagered on fighting Islam and God -- glory be to Him -- has thrown Him down; has wagered on sectarianism, and the people have foiled his bets; and has wagered on stripping the army from the people but the army and the people became united.

Our struggling people. In the name of the intellectuals, in the name of your political and professional organizations, in the name of your popular organizations, in the name of the civilians, soldiers and security and police forces we announce the following:

1. Our people have made their irrevocable decision, namely, to overthrow the regime of the killer Al-Asad and to establish a free and popular regime in which all citizens will have equal rights and duties.

2. Those who are misled and involved with the tyrant are called on for the last time to leave him and join the people.

3. The Arab and Islamic governments are called on to stand by our Syrian people, to sever all their political relations and stop their support for the oppressive regime.

4. The stands which will be taken by the Syrian Government after the, God willing, imminent victory will be based on the attitudes which have been taken and which will be taken by the world's states toward our people and the crimes of the oppressive tyrant.

Our people, our mujahidin. The jihad in confronting the tyrant is now a duty of all those capable of carrying arms following the killing of people by the regime and the ravishing of free women.

To steadfast Hamah and its sincere neighbors in the villages and subdistricts, in Salamiyah, Masyaf and Muhradah: Be more patient and united. Fight and sacrifice. To those who are sent toward Hamah by the tyrant we say: You must join Hamah and your weapons must be directed outside and not inside.

We have one request to make to all our people. They must begin a general strike until the regime falls. This is the minimum they can do. Those who can begin the strike today must not wait until tomorrow. We ask Damascus to begin a strike just like the 60-day strike during the colonial era. We again tell those who are misled and those who are still involved with the authorities: We give you a last chance; he who throws away his weapons now and keeps to his house will be safe. He who is still carrying weapons along with the tyrant will not escape punishment. Soon the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse] Peace and blessings of God be upon our people.

ARMED FORCES COMMUNIQUES DETAIL BATTLE SUCCESSES

Communique No 613

JN121922 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA) -- A military communique issued here today said that the Bostan area is now under the control of the Iraqi forces and that the Iraqi forces have tightened the noose around the Shib-Bostan pass. Communique No 613 added that the enemy has been denied access to Bostan village since the Iraqi forces are in full control of it.

The communique said the Persian enemy was defeated by the new determination and capabilities of our armed forces. The enemy retreated, gripped with panic, leaving behind its dead, equipment and weapons on the battlefield.

The communique asserted that the Iraqi forces did not enter Bostan village for special considerations. However, the communique added, this is not an obstacle to entering it in the future.

Following is the text of communique No 613:

Communique No 613 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

"If it were our will, we could drown them: Then there would be no helper to hear their cry, nor could they be believed." [Koranic verse]

God is great and glory to great Iraq; God is great and glory to the Arabs; God is great and death to the enemies of the people and nation -- the enemies of peoples and mankind, the racist ignorant rulers of Tehran: Let the banner of victory, glory and right fly high just as it did during the days of victories in September 1980, with new determination and capabilities in defense of right. Thus, we scored overwhelming victory over the defeated aggressors and covetors in the Bostan area and their remnants were defeated by the brave blows of the 20th century heroes.

Oh great Iraqi people, Oh masses of our glorious Arab nation, the ignorant aggressors, the enemies of God and humanity, the aggressors against right have been defeated in the Bostan area and escaped, full of terror, leaving behind the torn remnants of their dead, as well as their equipment and vicious weapons. Thus, our valiant army has tightened its steel noose around the Ash-Shib-Bostan pass. The Bostan area came under our control after our valiant army had destroyed all the enemy's defenses in the area and in the village of Bostan following one of the most glorious epics of the war of our nation and humanity, which we are waging against evil in defense of right.

By this, we have taught the vicious enemy a tough lesson in capability and determination, inflicting on it the heaviest of losses in lives, equipment and installations in order to further entrench and support our just stand by achieving victory and avenging our innocent martyrs and captives who were murdered in one of the ugliest and most vicious massacres in the history of humanity when the racist enemy murdered the POW's on 1 December 1981.

Our valiant armed forces managed to tighten their control by directing fire at Bostan village after having wiped out the enemy defenses. The enemy now has no access to this village. Our forces did not enter the Bostan village for special considerations. This, however, will not obstruct their entry into the village at any time in the future.

Let history, Heaven and earth witness that we are on the side of right and peace and that we want mankind and all nations to enjoy right, justice and freedom, just as we want our nation to. We want to be as free as we were born and we want to live as we should. Therefore, our people and army are fighting with a spirit of sacrifice and steadfastness unprecedented in the past 1,000 years and in the history of this people and nation.

Since we want other peoples to have peace and prosperity, we must side with right against the wrong.

Oh grandfathers, we deserve to be your grandsons who will sincerely continue to honor the principles you were entrusted with, sacrificed and fought for. Oh God, we pray that you will grant us mercy and success, for we need them and we are worthy of living on your land and worshipping you. We seek to live honorably and secure the right to life for our people because we can defend right and justice on earth.

Oh God, we pray that you will grant mercy to our martyrs, that you will forgive those who were misled among our enemy and that you will increase your wrath and just punishment against all evil intentions and actions and the wicked, unjust entities which are plotting against the leader-nation you endowed with your messages, principles and prophets here on earth and in the life to come.

God is great. There is only one God. May justice, security, love, peace and right be on earth. God is great and glory to those following the path of right and justice.

Greetings of pride and appreciation to our bold fighters who took part in this battle as well as in other battles. Greetings to all those who have raised the Iraqi banners high. Glory and immortality to our innocent martyrs.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 February.

Communique No 614

JN121954 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Communique No 614 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 February 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the capability of our great forefathers, with the endurance of the loyal grandsons of lofty Iraq and the Arab nation and with the spirit of heavenly values and the new dawn of the nation inaugurated by Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, our victorious troops continued, with the help of God almighty, their just fighting and holy march, affirming their persistence and determination to achieve decisive victory over the enemies of God and mankind and to seize right from the evil eyes of the Khomeyni clique.

Following is the outcome of the military activities last night and today.

1. The Bostan sector, as stipulated in our communique No 613.
2. The Khafajiyah [Susangerd] sector: Our valiant armed forces continue their daring march on and control of the enemy units in this area, thus destroying the enemy's defenses and fortificaitons in it with relentless determination and strength. Our armed forces crushed the enemy's desperate counterattacks. Our forces are in full control of their targets on the (Maysan) river. The enemy sustained a large number of killed and wounded and many tanks, armored cars and guns destroyed. Known enemy losses in this sector as counted by the competent quarters amount to 200 killed, and 4 tanks, 3 armored cars and 2 guns destroyed.
3. Today, our helicopters continued their successful raids on the enemy concentrations and positions in the Bostan sector, inflicting grave losses on enemy armored cars, vehicles and personnel. Our helicopters, which made sorties, returned safely to base.
4. Our valiant fighter planes raided enemy positions and concentrations in the Bostan sector, scoring direct and effective hits. All our planes returned safely to base.

5. Our forward units pounded enemy positions in the Abadan area with various types of arms, killing 12 and destroying a number of positions, 2 observation posts and 1 stockpile of hardware.

6. Our forward units pounded an enemy troops concentration and vehicles in the Sumar area, killing nine and destroying one tank.

7. Our forward units pounded enemy concentrations in the Dezful area, killing and destroying one vehicle.

8. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.

9. One gun and one observation post were destroyed in the Shush area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to well over 231 killed and 5 tanks, 3 armored cars, 3 guns, 1 vehicle, 3 observation posts and 1 stockpile of hardware were destroyed. This is in addition to a large number of wounded.

10. Our sacrifices:

A. In personnel: 24 martyrs in all sectors.

B. In equipment: one tank, one personnel carrier, three vehicles and one mortar damaged.

Communique No 615

JN131842 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Communique No 615 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 February 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With faith in God and in the firm will of the faithful and loyal men who carry the banner of their mission, the soldiers of truth and principles are fighting with the spirit of their early ancestors against the close associates of the devil who are in Qom and Tehran until the latter yield and admit our rights to sovereignty and dignity. Otherwise, their coming defeats will be more bitter and the men's attacks will be much stronger, God willing. The results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today were as follows:

1. Our victorious armed forces in the Bostan sector continued to pound the collapsing enemy remnants with all weapons, inflicting on them massive losses in life and equipment. The known enemy losses were 184 killed and 2 armored personnel carriers, 1 gun and 1 vehicle loaded with troops destroyed.

2. Our brave units in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] sector attacked the enemy positions and concentrations and clashed with the enemy with all types of weapons, inflicting losses in life and weapons. The known losses were 148 killed and 1 tank, 4 guns, 3 vehicles -- 2 of which were carrying troops -- 1 rocket launcher, 2 excavators and 3 observation posts destroyed. Two enemy boats were burned and sunk in the Neysan River.

3. Our units attacked an enemy troop concentration opposite our positions in the Shush area, killing 10.

4. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, killing 13 and destroying 1 observation post.

5. One of our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd, killing six.

6. Five were killed in the Mehran area.

7. Three were killed and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Nowsud area.
8. Three were killed and 1 stockpile of hardware was destroyed in the Dezful area.
9. Four were killed in the Abadan area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 376 killed and 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 5 guns, 5 vehicles -- 3 of which were loaded with troops -- 1 rocket launcher, 2 excavators, 5 observation posts, 1 stockpile of hardware and 2 boats.

10. Our sacrifices:
A. In personnel: 44 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: one tank, one personnel carrier, five vehicles and three mortars damaged.

Communique No 616

JN141726 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted grave losses on the Persian enemy in the Bostan sector during the past 24 hours.

Communique No 616 issued today by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that the Iraqi units clashed with an enemy force in the Bostan sector, pounding it violently. The communique pointed out that one of our forward units attacked an enemy force in the Shush area, killing 10 enemy personnel. The communique asserted that Iraqi fighter planes raided enemy positions and targets in the southern sector of the operations theater, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.

The following is the text of communique No 616 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

For the sake of the sovereignty and dignity of victorious Iraq and the immortal Arab nation, the Iraqi troops are waging their holy battles with honor and dignity on the arrogant enemy's land until we wrest our land and waters. The following is the outcome of the military activities last night and today:

1. Our brave units pounded an enemy force opposite their positions in the Bostan sector, killing 200 and wounding many others.
2. One of our forward units attacked an enemy force in the Shush area, killing 10 and destroying 1 tank and 1 gun.
3. Our units attacked enemy positions and personnel in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd], killing 11.
4. Four were killed in the Abadan area.
5. Our fighter planes today raided enemy positions and targets in the southern sector of the operations theater, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 225 killed, and 1 tank and 1 gun destroyed and a large number of wounded.

6. Our sacrifices:
A. In personnel: 39 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: two vehicles and one mortar damaged.
C. Persian enemy today shelled Basra with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 February 1982

KING HUSAYN INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI EDITORS

GF141417 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Feb 82 pp 13, 14, 15

["Text" of interview granted by King Husayn of Jordan to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Chief Editor Fahd al-Masa'id and AN-NAHDAH Chief Editor 'Abdallah ash-Shiti -- place and date not given]

[Excerpts] AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your Majesty's call for volunteers to fight alongside Iraq was appreciated. However, there were those who said: Jordan is a stone's throw from occupied Palestinian territory. Has the Palestinian file been closed?

King Husayn: The Palestinian file has not at all been closed and will not be closed. Jordan in particular has a role to play on one of the confrontation lines with the Arab nation's common enemy. Its armed forces and people are standing on this line. Jordan is ready to confront threats at any time. On the other hand, Iraq is our strategic depth. At no time has Iraq neglected its duties toward the Arab nation. It did not neglect its duty in any of the battles we waged against our enemy and against its intentions and ambitions, whether in 1948, 1967 or 1973, in Sinai or the Golan Heights. In Jordan and in Palestine, Iraq has contributed a great deal. In answer to your question, it seems to me that the battle is the same, whether it is here or there at the eastern gateway of the Arab homeland. It is not Iraq alone that is being threatened for the threat is to the entire Arab homeland. The threat is particularly directed against the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula and our people and brothers there. The Iranian objectives also include -- and regrettably this has become clear -- the creation of sedition among Muslims who believe in the one God, among brothers and kinsmen. Regrettably, these objectives converge with those of the Arab nation's enemies and with those who have ambitions against us, so as to weaken us and make us vulnerable to our enemies. Coordination and cooperation in armaments between Israel and the Iranian leadership is clear. Hence the joint efforts on the Jordanian and Iraqi fronts are in fact one and the same thing. Moreover, there are many considerations that are dear to us as Arabs. We are one nation. We have always said and continue to say we are one nation and if this or that part of the Arab homeland is being threatened it is the duty of all of us to confront it. The Arab League Charter, the Arab joint defense agreement, the ties of brotherhood and duty all call upon us to support Iraq. Any setback at the Arab homeland's eastern gateway, God forbid, means loss and humiliation, and, most serious of all, our enemies can easily achieve what they want. We shall not weaken, thanks to God's support. Whatever the circumstances and however big the threat, we are fiercely determined to do our duty like men. Our brothers are expected to assist us in times of hardship and difficulty. To fail to stand by Iraq and avoid doing our duty toward it is a kind of logic we do not understand and reject. All Arab territory has the same sanctity; when events occur on this territory or when it is the target of aggression, all of us must defend it as much as we can, and we should not shirk our duty.

Iraq does not need men or weapons. It stands proud, a united family on a united march. In Iraq the army is the people and the people are the army. They are all working in unison and with awareness and determination. We are very saddened when our kinfolk and brothers in Iraq believe we in the Arab world are standing by as spectators and are not directly and genuinely participating with them in confronting Iranian aggression. Hence the call to our brothers and sons in Jordan and the Arab world to volunteer. We opened the door as wide as possible to volunteers and contributions in Jordan. Truly I am honored to be a soldier serving and defending my nation.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Does Your Majesty expect similar Arab initiatives?

King Husayn: I hope so. We believe it is a duty.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Were there any U.S. or other threats or objections to your forming the Al-Yarmuk forces that are going to Iraq?

King Husayn: We heard statements from responsible U.S. sources when we declared the door open to volunteers. Of course, we do not accept any interference in our internal affairs from any source.

There was no pressure or attempt to dissuade us from the decision we made. We know that neither the Americans nor anyone else has the right to do this, and we would not accept it from anyone.

AR'RA'Y AL-'AMM: It appears, Your Majesty, that many people are not quite convinced of the reasons that have been given for the regrettable Jordanian-Syrian dispute. Can you explain this matter, particularly in view of the former rapprochement between the two countries?

King Husayn: We are extremely pained and saddened by this dispute, because what should exist is the exact opposite of what does exist. Our determination to confront threats and challenges may have prompted us to get closer to fraternal Syria so as to cooperate, work together and build our strength. Unfortunately, what happened has happened. As for Syria's repeated accusations that we interfere in its internal affairs, the truth is that we do not interfere in the affairs of others, and consequently we do not accept others interferring in our affairs. We would not allow ourselves to do this, nor do we reserve such a right in any way.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Is there any explanation for other aspects that exacerbated the differences in light of what is being published and said about interference in one form or another?

King Husayn: I assure you of what I have already said. We do not allow ourselves to interfere in any way and we do not allow others to interfere. The events taking place in Syria are regrettable and are in fact the result of the internal situation. The people of Syria, our brothers, are fully aware of the reasons and causes.

On the other hand, there are other matters on which we differ. There is a basic and major difference on Iraq and on the war imposed on Iraq and consequently on the Arab nation. So far, they -- together with some of our other brothers in the Arab homeland -- have been standing as a leadership, and not as the Syrian people. Of course, our support for Iraq from the very beginning may have been among the reasons that led to the massing of Syrian forces on Jordan's northern borders prior to the convening of the Arab summit conference in Amman [in November 1980]. We also have other observations and stands. For instance, the situation in Lebanon: At the time we supported the Syrian intervention in Lebanon because we hoped it would lead to an end to the bloodshed and fighting and create a favorable climate for inter-Lebanese and Lebanese-Palestinian accords. We hoped the outcome would be the safeguarding of Lebanon's independence, territorial integrity and strength. Thus the intervention in Lebanon would have been for the good of Lebanon and the Arab nation. We hoped the intervention would be temporary and would end with the elimination of the causes that led to it.

Now, however, it seems to me that the Lebanese tragedy has continued too long. Israel has a presence on Lebanese territory and is threatening Lebanon, Syria and all of us. We have views on Syria's policy in Lebanon.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: What are these views? Do you, for instance, call for the withdrawal of the Arab Deterrent Force?

King Husayn: Continuation of the present situation in Lebanon would be a catastrophe because the deteriorating situation places all keys in the hands of the enemies of Syria, Lebanon and the Arab nation, thus enabling them to achieve their designs and aims. These designs and aims are undoubtedly directed against all of us, and particularly against the Palestinian people and their cause. Thus it becomes necessary to prevent a catastrophe from happening in Lebanon as a result of the ambitions of the enemies of the Lebanese, the Syrians, the Palestinians and all the Arab nation.

I remember that at the first Arab summit which I had the honor to attend I warned against Lebanon's situation, and against Israeli ambitions in southern Lebanon in particular, and [the threat to] the sources of the Jordan River [in Lebanon], which are one of the targets of Israeli ambitions and which were written about many years ago. Regrettably, what we have warned against is happening today. Add to this the Arabs' disunity.

Lebanon's tragedy has many repercussions, even on the Jerusalem issue. It affects every aspect of our entire cause. I am unhappy about the continuation of the situation we have been experiencing all these years. I believe serious attempts are being made to create a favorable climate for inter-Lebanese and Lebanese-Palestinian accords. What is required and what I believe our nation wants is an appropriate formula that will put Lebanon back on the right track. We should make it possible to hold discussions and reach an agreement on the Arab nation's intervention. In the future, if circumstances require the presence of Arab forces in Lebanon for a specific period, we should then know how long that period will be. Perhaps it is appropriate to review the formation of these forces so that they do not belong to one country but represent the entire Arab nation and have a specific task for a specific period, and then withdraw when the reasons for their presence no longer exist.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your Majesty, the Arabs appear to be waiting for 25 April, the date of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. Is the adoption of an Arab decision on Egypt's return to the Arab fold, for instance, dependent on this date?

King Husayn: There is no doubt that 25 April is an important date for all of us. We hope the occupied Egyptian territories will be returned to Egypt by that time. As to what will happen after that, I have a hope -- and I believe every Arab shares this hope -- I would almost say I am confident there will be no one in Egypt, from the highest to the lowest, and anyone else in our Arab homeland who would give Israel any kind of legitimacy in its attempts to undermine the rights of the Arabs, and the Palestinians in particular, in all the occupied Arab territories, or the rights of Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem. Our great hope is that Egypt, which has played a great role and enjoyed a prestigious position in the historic Arab homeland will -- given what we owe it, and what it owes us -- not continue to remain in this aberrant situation in which we are living and that conditions will be created in the near future for Egypt's return to the Arab nation, so that it will play its big role in serving our nation and its future generations.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Let us refer to the Muslim Brotherhood which, it is said, maintains a big presence in Jordan. Does it engage in any political activity in Jordan?

King Husayn: The Muslim Brotherhood does not engage in political activity. As a grouping it has specific activities. It has always been present in Jordan as part of the Jordanian family, but we all live here as one family. Of course, we do not accept any kind of transgression by any member of the family against the other members and against the rights of the Jordanian family. This is what we have always maintained.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your Majesty, do you expect Syria to attend the upcoming Fes summit and do you believe it will accept the peace plan of His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd Al-'Aziz? This is the plan that was on the agenda of the adjourned Fes summit. It is still on this agenda and is being presented to the Arab foreign ministers conference. What do you say?

King Husayn: I don't know about the Syrian stand. Perhaps the Syrian leadership can answer. Anyway, as for this question and what is related to Prince Fahd's plan -- I prefer to call it the Arab plan because this is what the last meeting in Fes agreed -- we were not in the picture when the plan was proposed. We were not asked about it by our brothers. Thus we considered it a suggestion, based on the resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly and even the Arab summits, including the Baghdad summits which talked about the plan within the framework of a just and honorable peace. We are part of the world and we believed that this plan in itself could be the basis for an Arab stand before the entire world. In fact, the Israeli and Zionist attack on this plan and the acceptance we felt the plan and these ideas received in various parts of the world made us believe we must continue to discuss it and it should remain on the next agenda in order to be discussed on this basis. We considered this step to be a change from being Prince Fahd's or the Saudi plan to an Arab plan that has been accepted by the majority in the Arab world. This majority has adopted it and considers it to be its own plan. When a summit meeting is held in the appropriate circumstances, the plan will have to be discussed in detail.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your Majesty, what are the priorities on the agenda of the upcoming Fes summit with regard to all important issues?

King Husayn: Indeed, there is an agenda but this agenda must be reviewed. Personally, it seems to me I was not completely satisfied with the agenda submitted to the Fes summit during the previous meeting. For instance, the situation in Lebanon was proposed as the issue of Lebanon's needs and its reconstruction. This is part of the picture. The problem must be discussed more deeply as a whole. All the Arabs must perform their duty and play their role in rescuing Lebanon and Arab interests, Arab dignity and Arab rights.

Naturally there was the issue of the war imposed on this nation by Iran and Iran's cooperation with Israel in this war against Iraq. This is what I believe should have been discussed in depth. In my opinion, if all the Arabs had adopted the stand expected of them, this war would have ended and much blood and many souls could have been saved.

There is now an Arab stand in support of a fraternal state on the one side and another Arab stand in support of the enemy of that fraternal state on the other. As you see, it is an extremely serious situation that cannot be tolerated and that should be discussed at a summit conference. During and after the Arab summit meeting we were about to clash with a fraternal state while we and they were supposed to be united in a confrontation line. As a result one of the most difficult situations we have ever experienced was created. We found ourselves forced to pull a good part of our forces away from the first confrontation line in order to face the threat imposed on us by that fraternal state. Any mistake could have resulted in an explosion. Such a situation must be discussed frankly. In fact I am against the continuation of the old methods which have been followed for quite a long time during which we used to shake hands with each other and then, as soon as the meeting was over, things returned to what they were before. This course should be corrected.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Some leaders and politicians state from time to time that since the proposed peaceful solutions and the Camp David agreements have failed there has to be an alternative and that resorting to military power or the petroleum battle is inevitable. What is Your Majesty's opinion?

King Husayn: There is no doubt that oil is one of this nation's resources. But how must it be utilized and in what form? This is decided by circumstances. This energy could be used to build up the power of this nation everywhere. In fact the problem in my view is the threat to the Arab personality, whether it comes from the West or the East. This part of the world is strategic and this Arab territory contains much of our good Arab resources and is the meeting point of the world's different pathways. There are also hostile intentions, goals and forces. How do we deal with all these things? We want to preserve our personality, defend our rights and deal with everyone in a correct and perfect manner in which we command the respect of others. If the issue is one of interests, we must go to the extent to which our interests are not relinquished and our personality is not threatened.

It is rather strange that we find many of those who called for the elimination of alliances, foreign treaties and contacts with others in this world have changed their course and direction. What happens in one part of the Arab world has an expected reaction in another part, as if this region were seeking to internationalize the conflict. This is one of the goals of Zionism. It has long been a clear goal that conflicts between us and them are to be converted into conflicts between East and West. What is in balance today is our personality and will. What is in balance is the sacrifices of all those who traveled the hard and long path before us. What is in balance is our freedom.

In fact I don't assign much importance to the campaign against the petroleum states on the political and Arab levels or against their strength. These states must group themselves correctly and prepare themselves for any possible confrontation. The stage before us is difficult and extremely serious; it is the stage of life or death.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your Majesty, what about the referring of the annexation of the Golan Heights to the Security Council and the General Assembly? Some countries supported us while others opposed us or abstained in voting. Then there is the particularly regrettable stand of Turkey, which is a member of the Islamic Conference.

King Husayn: With regard to the Golan annexation, it is a new Israeli step that signifies enmity and points to Israeli intentions and aims against the Arab nation -- aims that are growing in time. However, the fact is that the Golan Heights have been occupied and will so until the occupation is ended. In my opinion perhaps we should not have raised the Golan issue separately from the question of Jerusalem, which was previously annexed by Israel -- and we in the Arab world did not respond to that measure at the time in the way we should have. There is another matter: the settlements that are being established and the constant aggression against Arab land and the Arab inhabitants of all the occupied territories. All this is part of the same big process. The Golan Heights are not the first issue we have had to face. The land is occupied, and we must do all we can to end the occupation and restore the rights to their owners, primarily in Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: The second part of the question is, Your Majesty, on the recent stand taken by some countries.

King Husayn: As for the stand of some countries, we have already clearly stated to some of these countries our view of their stands. It was said, for example, that these countries, or some of them, do not believe in the principle of imposing sanctions on Israel. They say these would not help them exert pressure on Israel. The reply, of course, was very easy for us: How can you reconcile this stand on Israel's annexation of the Golan and the U.S. action on the Polish crisis, for instance?

As for Turkey, we hope our neighborly relations will continue. I do not exactly know the circumstances. For a long time, however, I have believed that we in the Arab world can maintain good relations with Turkey and that there are sufficient ties between us to build upon. Let our relations be better, and let us work together for a better future for all of us.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: How do you view the GCC's formation to serve the interests of the region and the interests of the Arab nation, champion our causes and enhance relations among GCC countries? Do you support the establishment of such a council among other fraternal states?

King Husayn: The GCC is a good idea. We support and encourage the establishment of such cooperation and wish for it for all our brothers. We hope it will be expanded to include not only our brothers in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula but also the entire Arab homeland in order to defend the Arab identity and survival in the present and future.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: You recently concluded a Soviet missile deal. Have the missiles reached Jordan? Was U.S. opposition to the deal discussed while Your Majesty was in the United States?

King Husayn: During my visit to the United States we clearly explained to U.S. officials that the decision had been made and that agreement on the missile deal had been reached, that the matter was not open to discussion for that was our decision. This is what happened. We are waiting for these weapons to arrive.

AR-RA'Y Al-'AMM: Can Your Majesty say whether the crews of the Soviet missiles have been sent to the Soviet Union for training?

King Husayn: I cannot go into details on this matter. However, these Soviet arms become Arab Jordanian as soon as they arrive. Of course, we believe we will be very competent in using these weapons and any new weapons we receive from whatever source.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Can we say, Your Majesty, that these weapons -- the "missiles" or whatever -- will be placed, for instance, at Iraq's disposal if it should need them?

King Husayn: I cannot answer you or enter into any detailed discussion on this matter. What I can say is that Jordan will do all it can to support fraternal Iraq with all its capabilities.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: What about French President Mitterrand's visit to Israel and Jordan which is scheduled to take place soon? Is it true he will cross the King Husayn bridge on his way to Jordan, thus causing some Palestinian officials to object and make statements? What is Your Majesty's view on this matter?

King Husayn: The Palestinian brothers in the PLO were in fact happier than we were with the French leadership prior to recent developments in France. They had firm relations with the present French leadership. I personally am not happy with some of the things we have seen and experienced from this leadership regarding the French stand in the EEC and recent French standards and statements. We discussed these matters at the time. We put on record our objections and observations and made them known at the highest levels in France in a clear and frank manner.

The question of the visit to Jordan was discussed during my visit to France and in my meeting with President Mitterrand. At the time he expressed the desire to visit the region, and we invited him to visit Jordan. A written invitation was then officially extended prior to the recent developments regarding the French stand on our causes. Actually, so far we have not discussed the date of the visit or its details. However, we believe it will be easy for us to accept that the visit will take place in the manner that will be discussed with the French president. However, this matter has not been discussed because the date and the form of the visit have not yet been specified.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: What about the visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger to Jordan, following his visit to Muscat and Saudi Arabia? Can Your Majesty throw some light on his mission?

King Husayn: During my recent visit to the United States I heard about Weinberger's visit to the region. I met with him there. The man seems to me to be capable and fair minded and well versed in the affairs of this region and the current situation. On this basis we welcomed him and welcomed his current visit to Jordan (the day before yesterday). We shall discuss all issues of mutual interest -- relations with the United States on the one hand and regional affairs and what we believe to be in our nation's interest on the other. We shall talk to him clearly and frankly on all these matters.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: In the absence of a parliament, parliamentary elections and political parties, does Your Majesty believe there is a political vacuum in Jordan?

King Husayn: Yes, a political vacuum exists. It is the result of what we have experienced in this part of the world: Israeli occupation of the West Bank, then the Arab summit's decision in Rabat [that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative], the continued occupation of territory, and then the difficulty of coming to this stage and saying: This is Palestinian and this is Jordanian, while we in fact are one family facing the same danger. On the other hand, we have always taken into consideration that we would not allow any local measure in Jordan to give Israel a further opportunity to tamper more and more with the affairs of the occupied West Bank on the pretext that a "vacuum" has been created and that it has the right to take action regarding the international view of the problem. In any case, we hope this situation will not continue -- a difficult situation that we experienced during the Arab world's most difficult years. We hope to return to parliamentary life in the near future, God willing.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: How would you describe Jordanian-Palestinian relations? What about the Jordanian-PLO joint committees?

King Husayn: They are natural and good relations; nothing is disturbing them. The committees are there; they meet and their work continues and everything is normal.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Does Your Majesty believe that the government's support for the Jordanian press to enable it to carry out its role is commensurate with the aspirations and cultural level of the citizens of this country? The number of newspapers is small.

King Husayn: The members of the Jordanian family have great and promising aspirations in this field and in every field that serves the country and gives impetus to the progress of the united Jordanian family. We believe these aspirations are progressing and will be realized and there will be great progress in the field you are talking about -- the Jordanian press and its progress.

(It is worth noting that the Jordanian press is self-reliant and does not receive any government aid. This was confirmed to us by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and by the owners and chief editors of the newspapers themselves.)

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Excuse us, Your Majesty, for taking such a long time but we still have some questions.

King Husayn: Ask what you want; you are welcome.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: A call for jihad by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was made at the Islamic summit conference in At-Ta'if and Mecca, and the conference adopted the call. Do you not believe, Your Majesty, that this call to millions of Muslims is a binding duty in the present circumstances and should be implemented?

King Husayn: There is no doubt that jihad is the duty of every Arab and Muslim so that he can do all he can and utilize all his capabilities. However, once again I refer to the regrettable situation that exists in the Arab world: The fragmentation that exists in the Arab world has affected the Muslim world, even with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war that has been imposed on us by Iran.

If the Arab situation were what it should be, this would have affected the Muslim world. There would be more pressure in the right direction to stop the fighting and negotiate an end to the reasons that led to the outbreak of the war and to eliminate all the causes that lead to any kind of friction between the Arab nation and Iran -- not only between Iraq and Iran but also between the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula and Iran, so that the situation between Iran and all the Arab Gulf countries would be fully and satisfactorily rectified.

This is the reality. Perhaps one of its results is that there has not been a sound development in the Arab and Muslim world with regard to everyone's duty toward Jerusalem and toward all other issues.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Does Your Majesty have any view or idea regarding the situation on the Iraqi-Iranian front, particularly as you go there from time to time?

King Husayn: I know that Iraq never had any ambitions to annex new Iranian territory. Its stand has always been defensive, and self-defense is legitimate. Iraq wanted only to regain its territory, waters and rights, and to stop at certain borders hoping that good will efforts and self-interest would lead to an end to the fighting and to negotiations to end the causes that led to the fighting. Iraq responded to Iranian aggression. I am not one of those who believes the situation on the front enables Iraq to make further advances. Iraq, thank God, is strong, impregnable, steadfast and patient. It has given and continues generously to produce martyrs for the defense of its rights, territory, waters and the Arab nation's rights. The situation on the front is in general satisfactory. However, we hope the time will come in the near future when this war will end on sound bases -- clear bases that will safeguard everyone's rights. Then, not only will the problem between Iraq and Iran end, but also the problem between Iran and the Arab sisters, particularly those in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: It has been said that Your Majesty offered military aid to protect and support fraternal Bahrain after the discovery of the recent sabotage plot there. Is this true?

King Husayn: Yes, it is true. This is a duty. We offered to carry out our duty toward our brothers. Jordan is always ready and will not hesitate to carry out its duty to its brothers whenever they are subjected to any form of aggression. This is what we commit ourselves to whenever our brothers need help.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your Majesty, do you believe there are dangers threatening the security of the Gulf directly?

King Husayn: Regrettably, I do not believe the Iranian threat has been eliminated. I do not say this with regard to what happened in fraternal Bahrain alone; I am talking about the danger of creating sedition and about the attempt to expand at the expense of the Arab nation. This danger is real; it exists and threatens us all.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Will Your Majesty please answer this question: It has been said that the United States has promised you -- from time to time -- to reject the Israeli concept of the Palestinian state and its establishment in east Jordan and its promise that this concept is not a serious one. What is your opinion?

King Husayn: We did not ask the United States for an explanation and it did not offer us one because, here, we are a single family and a single march. The Palestinian question is not one of establishing a state on any soil; it is a question of the Arab Palestinian right on Palestinian soil itself and the Arab Palestinian right in Jerusalem and all the occupied territories. This is the problem.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: What about the voices that have recently been raised in the occupied territory in an attempt to undermine the PLO -- though some of these voices have given up their call to the PLO to recognize Israel?

King Husayn: In fact, by God, I have no comment on these recent statements. However, we appreciate all that our steadfast brothers and kinsmen bear in the occupied territory. The PLO is proud of this, and we are, too. All these challenges and examples of heroism in the occupied territories express the steadfast stand of our brothers in the occupied territory against the occupation.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: What is Your Majesty's stand on the need to change the Arab League Charter in order to make it more active and more influential, so that the league does not remain paralyzed?

King Husayn: I support reviewing the present charter in order to develop it. However, once more I say with deep regret that the articles in the present charter are not being implemented. Let us first begin here, that is, begin to implement what is included in the charter which we have in our hands; evidence is plentiful.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: We saw Your Majesty addressing thousands of the volunteers leaving for Iraq. You stressed that you are the first soldier in the Al-Yarmuk forces by placing the ensignia of these forces on your shoulder. We also heard that some time ago you fired an artillery shell in an advanced position on the front with Iran.

King Husayn: I have the honor to be a soldier who performs his duty. In fact, I did fire that artillery shell on the battlefield. I am not announcing a secret when I say that that shell was made in Iraq.

I want to say to you that the happiest and most comfortable moments in this test we are all passing through are the hours I spend in Iraq. Whenever one gets far from the center of events, he tends to be confused with regard to what he hears. For this reason, each of my visits to the center of events fills me with pride in the cohesive stand of the Iraqi people and the leadership. Their goal is clear. Thus I shall go to the battlefield at every opportunity, God willing.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Were you not supposed to visit Kuwait and the rest of the Arabian Gulf capitals when you recently visited fraternal Bahrain?

King Husayn: In fact there was a misunderstanding during my previous visit to Bahrain. I prefer that we do not follow the previous method during our visits and tours. There will be short visits very soon to each fraternal Gulf state. There will be sufficient opportunities to discuss important and mutual issues. My visit to Kuwait is very soon, God willing, and it will take place at the first avilable opportunity. I am very proud and confident of the good and strong relations between Jordan and Kuwait and between Jordan and all its brothers in the Arabian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. Convey our regards to all our brothers there.

U.S. DETERMINED TO CONSOLIDATE RELATIONS

JN161115 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Informed sources in Amman have said that the United States is at present convinced that security and stability in the Gulf region are largely connected with the strength of the Jordanian regime and army. Washington, therefore, is determined to consolidate its relations with Amman.

IBRAHIM MEETS, HOLDS TALKS WITH PLO'S QADDUMI

JN171005 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Feb 82 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman (QNA) -- Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian acting foreign minister and minister of occupied land affairs, met yesterday with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, who is currently visiting Jordan. The QNA correspondent in Amman has learned that they discussed the general Arab situation and the situation in the occupied Arab territory. They also reviewed bilateral relations and issues of common concern for Jordan and the PLO. Qaddumi arrived in Amman on a visit of several days to Jordan.

TIMES NOTES ISRAELI CONTROL OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

JN161052 Amman Jordan TIMES in English 16 Feb 82 p 4

[Editorial: "The Noisy Season"]

[Text] Israel has wasted little time making a great deal of threatening noises about what it sees as a shift in American policy in the Middle East because of an alleged American willingness to sell F-16 fighter planes and improved Hawk (I-Hawk) missiles to Jordan. There are two distinct issues here which should not be confused: Jordan's defence requirements and the extent of Israeli control over American foreign policy.

For starters, Jordan has not ordered or even expressed an interest in ordering I-Hawks or F-16s. Those weapons systems that Jordan has deemed imperative for its immediate defense requirements have been purchased most recently from Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union. Future defence requirements will be obtained as required, when required, from parties with whom a purchase agreement can be struck with dignity, mutual respect and aplomb.

The real issue that Israel is raising this week, we suspect, is that of its traditional control over American policy in the Arab world. There have been no signs whatsoever that the United States is on the verge of changing its policy of almost absolute and unquestioning support for Israel and its predatory policies in the region. If we deal with deeds, not words, we must recognise that American support remains firm for a Mideast power imbalance in favor of Israel. The Israelis are obviously concerned about a possible change in American policy, and that the American Government might try to become truly even-handed. That still strikes us as unlikely, based on the hard evidence to date. So why all the noise from Israel? To camouflage an imminent desperate action? To lay down the groundrules for the White House for the post-April era?

ISRAEL'S SECURITY DEPENDENT ON ARAB WEAKNESS

JN161745 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] Menahem Begin's campaign in the Knesset yesterday and his intention to form a unified front with all the opposition parties to face what he calls the threat of supplying Jordan with sophisticated U.S. weapons disclose the objectives of the Zionist state and the pillars of its policy. Israel's security is, hence, conditional on the Arab weakness and its superiority depends on preventing the Arabs from possessing the means of power. Moreover, the continuity of the Zionist hegemony of the Arab land is connected with the continuation of the Arabs' fragmentation.

Israeli Prime Minister Begin and opposition leader Peres agree that supplying Jordan with sophisticated planes and missiles harms the deterrent force represented by the Israeli Air Force and Israel's security. The theory is that Israel's security is connected with a continued threat to Arab security so the Arab world can continue to live in a state of imbalance and, consequently, face one of two choices: defeat or surrender.

Any form of Arab power, as we understand it from Begin's statements and stands, constitutes a threat to Israel because the latter's existence is conditional on the Arabs' weakness, incapability and failure to build up their own intrinsic power. Iraq's victory on the Iranian front and Jordan's support for Iraq are both sources of apprehension to Israel because they will lead to the unity of the Jordanian and Iraqi fronts, something which Israel considers, as Begin says, the establishment of a joint military command between Amman and Baghdad. Israel also says that there is no guarantee that this joint power will not turn against Israel as it is now turned against the Iranian aggressor.

Any Arab group, any gathering of the means of the Arab power, any Arab victory on the battlefront or any Arab scientific accomplishment similar to the Iraqi nuclear reactor, which was destroyed by Israel, cause a real threat to Israel's supremacy and security.

This was Begin's logic during the Knesset debate yesterday when he called on the opposition parties to join him in a campaign against the United States to prevent the latter's attempt to increase Jordan's military power. This happens at a time when Israel is asking for more sophisticated weaons and as its policies continue to jeopardize U.S. interests in the Middle East.

We are addressing this to those who have made it their policy to stab their Arab brothers in the back, to those who have enabled Israel to use the Arabs' quarrels to serve its interests, to those who do not apprehend the meaning of disappointing Iraq, to those who do not realize the meaning of abandoning their national duties toward the Arab nation.

KUWAITI'S KUNA INDICATES ADF WITHDRAWAL POSSIBLE

JN161803 Monte Carlo radio Monte Carlo in Arabic, 1700 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The Lebanese security forces are in a state of alert as a precautionary measure against a possible withdrawal by the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] from Beirut as reported by the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY. Several press sources in Beirut said today that a state of maximum alert prevails in the Lebanese security forces. It seems, these sources say, that the cause for this is the possibility that the Syrian special forces stationed in Lebanon might return to Syria and other Syrian forces might replace them. Observers in the Lebanese capital believe that these moves are related to internal Syrian developments, especially the current events in Hamah.

Lebanese Sources Deny Reports

GF171055 Doha QNA in Arabic 0952 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Doha, 17 Feb (QNA) -- Quoting Lebanese National Movement sources, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB reports that the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] will not withdraw from Lebanon and that speculations on their withdrawal "as a result of the internal situation in Syria" are baseless. The sources have asserted that the ADF presence in Lebanon has national reasons and dimensions.

The sources told the newspaper today that Syrian officials and Lebanese National Movement leaders have had contacts during the past 24 hours. This proves that the withdrawal of these forces is not being considered.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ADF TROOP DESERTIONS

NC170930 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] According to information received in Beirut from a West European capital at dawn today, about 2,000 men of the Syrian [Arab] Deterrent Forces deployed in Lebanon have broken away from their command. Some have joined the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria and the others Fatah.

The information indicates that the Syrian soldiers who joined the Muslim Brotherhood were deployed in Al-Biqa' and in nortern Lebanon, while those who joined Fatah were in Beirut. This happened last night.

FOUR ADF MEMBERS KILLED IN TRIPOLI CLASH

NC161827 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] A clash occurred this afternoon among members of the Arab Deterrent Forces in the Al-Qal'ah area in Tripoli. Four persons were killed and the local command has hurried to contain the battle.

Clashes between the Amal movement and the Palestinian Arab Front continued in Al-Qulaylah township in the south until 2300 today. As a result, a number of persons were killed, including Ahmad Suwaydan. Several others, including Suwaydan's wife Ruqqiyah, were wounded.

PLO LEADERS EVACUATE FAMILIES FROM BEIRUT

NC141809 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] According to Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut, the leaders of the Palestinian organizations have evacuated their families from Beirut to some Gulf and east European countries following information that Israel may carry out a military operation against the Palestinian forces' positions in Beirut and southern Lebanon similar to the Al-Fakhani operation [17 July 1981 Israeli air raid on Palestinian positions in Beirut].

Meanwhile, Abu az-Za'im, head of Palestinian intelligence, today confirmed the existence of unusual Israeli movements along the entire front in southern Lebanon. He held Washington responsible for what he termed the details of an Israeli military plan against the Palestinians and the Lebanese people. He added: We have information indicating that since 10 February Israel has been mobilizing its reserves, especially armor and naval personnel. He said: This mobilization will be completed this evening.

VOP ON ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH

JN161647 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The military spokesman of the joint forces central command has stated the following:

1. Since this morning, enemy vehicles have been notices moving in the Marj 'Uyun area. Other vehicles have also been sighted moving from Al-Quala'yah toward (Sanawbarat) and from al-Qula'yah toward (Ad-Dasham).

2. Since 1215, the Zionist enemy planes have been intensively flying at low altitude over several southern Lebanese areas and ad-Damur.

3. From 1250 until 1500 today, Zionist warplanes flew several sorties over Beirut and broke the sound barrier at 1330. The joint forces ground defenses repulsed them.

BUTRUS: TUNIS PARTICIPANTS REQUEST MORE TIME

NC161515 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Minister Fu'ad Butrus has spoken about the reasons for the postponement of the minicommittee meetings. The minicommittee has been entrusted with drawing up an Arab strategy on southern Lebanon. He said: To know the facts I think one must go back to the statement issued about the minicommittee meetings. Actually, when I was in Tunis I met with colleagues who are members of the minicommittee. Some asked that the 15 February session be postponed until the middle of March to give them time to study the subject carefully and take a stand on the Lebanese working paper. I replied that the 15 February session should be held so that the committee can begin work and Lebanon can outline its views and explain the working paper it submitted. Then, if some committee members have reasons for postponing the meeting in order to continue discussions, Lebanon cannot reject such a request, especially since their positions have not yet been defined.

This is what actually happened, he said. The agreement was that if some members want a postponement -- and I knew they would request that after the session was held and Lebanon outlined its views -- Lebanon would not actually object to the postponement if it became clear that they were not prepared to take a stand.

Concluding his statement, Minister Butrus said: It is clear from this that there was no contradiction between what happened and what I said. Actually, at least two states among those participating in the committee -- Saudi Arabia and Kuwait -- had no time to take a position before yesterday's session. Therefore, it was natural to give them a chance to study the subject because their position on the deliberation points is important.

BUTRUS MEETS IRANIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

NC161728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today received the Iranian parliamentary delegation which is currently visiting Beirut. The Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut attended the meeting.

The delegation members expressed their readiness to assist Lebanon, expressing their regret at its sufferings, particularly southern Lebanon, and their readiness to provide any assistance they can. They also expressed their hope that the central authority will enjoy strength so as to enable it to impose its sovereignty over all the country. The discussion also dealt with the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT RAPS PHALANGIST-ISRAELI TIES

NC141218 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] In Beirut, the Lebanese National Movement has called on the Arab Followup Committee to again bring the Phalangists to account for continuing their dealings with Israel now that it has been revealed that Bashir al-Jumayyil, [commander of the Lebanese forces], has met with Israeli war Minister Ari'el Sharon and to make the taking of any security or political step conditional upon the ending of such dealings.

In a statement issued yesterday by its Central Political Council, the National Movement called on Prime Minister [Shafiq al-Wazzan] to adopt a clear stand on this hostile meeting, because it negates Bashir al-Jumayyil's letter to the president of the republic, especially in view of the fact that the meeting is linked with preparations for an aggression against the south and with the campaign of blackmail and threats against Syria, the [Palestinian] resistance and the National Movement.

A responsible source in the [Lebanese] Progressive Socialist Party had earlier emphasized that Israel is preparing for committing an aggression to liquidate the largest number of the Palestinian resistance's bases, to oust the Syrians [from Lebanon] and to appoint Bashir al-Jumayyil president of the country. The source called for drawing up a plan to counter the Israeli-Phalangist plan and the [expected] attacks on the national areas.

ARMENIAN 'ARMY' CHIEF DENIES EXTERNAL SUPPORT

GF170108 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanese Armenians in Armenian 1330 GMT 2 Feb 82

[First part of interview with Hagop Hagopian, leader of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia; date and place not given -- read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Question] Various foreign and Arab newspapers often write that members of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia [ASALA] are trained in the Palestinian revolution's military camps. Some papers state that ASALA members are trained by special military experts sent from the Armenian SSR. Comrade Hagopian, could you expound on this matter?

[Answer] These baseless accusations have not stopped since the establishment of ASALA. The Western media have concentrated their accusations on the point that our members are trained in Palestinian camps. Outstanding figures of the Armenian bourgeoisie stress and insist that ASALA fedayeen are trained in Palestinian camps. This is done for selfish motives. By means of such accusations, the outstanding figures of the Armenian bourgeoisie want to poison the minds of our people, stating as they do that ASALA members are not true Armenians but Palestinian agents.

The accusations of the political leaders were regarded a failure when it was discovered that ASALA is a totally independent Armenian organization, having independent centers. They were greatly disappointed when they saw that no party, Palestinian or Lebanese, has influence over ASALA. With honesty and truthfulness, we want to stress that ASALA fedayeen do not in any way receive training in Palestinian military camps. We want to say that our organization has no need for Palestinian military camps. Our fedayeen need only weapons and explosives on which they can train even in small rooms. In fact, our training has been carried out in small rooms. Our fedayeen also go into the mountains and train without any aid from foreigners. This training is enough for them for the time being because we are not involved in guerrilla warfare and we do not need training in guerrilla tactics.

When the numbers of our fedayeen increased, we built our own military camps where our fedayeen receive arms training. We have gained much experience in our struggle and have become experts in arms. Through our efforts the Armenian people now have their own military camps where the trainers are ASALA members and the trainees ASALA fedayeen.

They also accuse us of being trained by military experts sent from Soviet Armenia. This is completely untrue, unfounded. But that does not mean that we oppose such a move. On the contrary, we would have been very proud if the Armenian SSR Government had supported us and if military experts from Soviet Armenia had trained our fedayeen. It would have been a great honor for us to receive aid from our small fatherland, Soviet Armenia. Unfortunately, however, the authorities of the Armenian SSR still leave Armenian revolutionaries alone against Turkish fascism. It is the right of revolutionary Armenians living abroad to receive aid from their fatherland, Soviet Armenia. Furthermore, it is the right of Soviet Armenia to support Armenian revolutionaries. Unfortunately, we are still very far from realizing that vital concept.

The imperialist and conservative Armenian media assume that through accusations they will be able to isolate ASALA from the Armenian people. They will always fail because the Armenian people draw closer to us as our struggle intensifies.

Our source of strength is our people. ASALA will continue to exist with the support of the Armenian people. The Armenian people defend ASALA and supply aid. There is not a force in the world that can tarnish the name of our organization, poison our struggle or weaken our will. The Armenians are with us and we will struggle until the just rights of the Armenian people are attained.

Naturally, we will find obstacles on the course of our struggle -- one of which is the Western media. To bury the Armenian cause and destroy our revolution, the Western media will attempt to blemish ASALA, just as they have neglected the existence of the Armenian people for the past 60 years and never referred to the massacre of Armenians. The Western media rarely wrote about us in the past, and when they did -- as on the 24 April anniversary -- it was only two or three lines. Now, however, when a small bomb explodes, the Western media allocate pages to the Armenian cause and the massacre of Armenians. Naturally, the Western media never forget to consider ASALA a terrorist organization, stating that ASALA members receive training in Palestinian camps. The Western media also describe the Palestinians and all the nations which demand recognition of their rights as terrorists. At the beginning the Western media used to assail the Armenian revolutionaries when they attacked Turkish envoys and establishments, but when the interests of the imperialist countries were subjected to similar attacks, the Western media admitted the existence of our case and started to advise Armenian revolutionaries to strike at Turkish interests. When the imperialist countries felt the danger at their own back, they began to admit the existence of the struggle between Armenians and Turks.

We attach no importance to the Western media's absurd remarks. However, we are hurt when the Armenian media parrot the poisonous expressions of the Western media directed toward Armenian revolutionaries. ASALA feels no danger from the Western or foreign media; the real danger comes from the conservative Armenian media.

CLASHES CONTINUE; HAMAH SITUATION STILL TENSE

NC162156 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon a short while ago, the situation in the Syrian city of Hamah is still tense and clashes are continuing between the police forces and members of the Muslim Brotherhood, particularly along the axes of Sadd ar-Rustum barracks and some important utilities. The Syrian forces are facilitating the passage of old people, children and women across barriers set up by the state's forces, which have thrown a siege around the city.

It has been reported that the 47th Brigade, or the so-called martyr Muhammad (Salamun) Brigade, today completed the process of joining the Muslim Brotherhood with all its equipment and ammunition.

Talas' Nephew Killed

NC161610 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The Syrian defense minister, Mustafa Talas, has announced that an attempt by the Muslim Brotherhood to flee from justice in Hamah has been foiled. This was contained in a report published by REUTER news agency in its English bulletin.

Other reports say that some Muslim Brotherhood members have prepared a plan to shoot some state officials.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the nephew of Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas was killed earlier in Hamah. He was serving as the head of the intelligence branch in the city.

TALAS UNHURT IN ALEPPO SHOOTING INCIDENT

NC161412 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] In its English bulletin REUTER news agency has reported that Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas was involved in a shooting incident at 1300 today, but was unhurt. The incident took place in the Syrian city of Aleppo.

SALAH JADID TURNS DOWN RECONCILIATION OFFER

NC161917 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian regime has contacted Salah Jadid, former secretary general of the Ba'th Party's Regional Command [and former chief of staff]. The regime delegated senior 'Alawite officers to approach Salah Jadid in prison. The purpose of this contact was to achieve an 'Alawite reconciliation because Jadid belongs to an influential 'Alawite tribe in the (Jabri) district, where Al-Qardahah township, the birthplace of President al-Asad, is located.

The information received by the Voice of Lebanon adds that Jadid turned down the offer of reconciliation in return for his release. He said the regime had turned the battle in Syria into a confessional battle. He stipulated that a public trial be held to determine the reasons for his imprisonment since 1970. He emphasized that he will only leave prison if a [Ba'th] Party court acquits him.

AAPSO CONFERENCE OPENS IN DAMASCUS 15 FEB

JN152018 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 15 Feb (SANA) -- The Arab and Middle Eastern AAPSO committees' conference opened here this evening under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad to express support for Syria's steadfastness and to condemn the Zionist decision to annex the occupied Golan.

Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant Ba'th Party regional secretary and chairman of the AAPSO committee in Damascus, deputized for President Hafiz al-Asad. The opening ceremony was attended by Mahmud az-Zu'bi, People's Assembly speaker; several members of the Regional and National Commands; a number of members of the Central Command of the Progressive National Front; Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council chairman; Nuri 'Abd ar-Razzaq Husayn, AAPSO secretary general; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, AAPSO deputy chairman; Samir Sanbar, representative of the UN secretary general; a number of ministers; and several representatives of the AAPSO Arab and Middle Eastern committees and world liberation movements.

Comrade Mashariqah asserted Syria's determination under President Hafiz al-Asad to liberate the occupied Arab territories and restore usurped Arab rights. At the outset of his speech, Comrade Mashariqah conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings and best wishes to the conferees. He said: Your conference, held under the slogan "Support for Syria's Steadfastness Against the Imperialist-Zionist Onslaught and Denunciation of the Zionist Enemy Decision to Annex the Occupied Syrian Heights," acquires a special significance in the wake of the enemy's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to its racist entity and to apply Israeli law to the occupied territories and to our kinfolk there.

He emphasized that the Zionist enemy is attempting through continued aggression and provocations against the Arab nation to fulfill the dream of the leaders of Zion to establish a greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile at the expense of Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Hijaz, Yemen, Egypt and Sudan. This enemy also intends to impose hegemony on the rest of the Arab states to control the Arab nation's political, economic, military and cultural potentials in full coordination with U.S. imperialism.

Comrade Mashariqah praised AAPSO's noble principles. He said: Your conference which is convening in Damascus stems from these principles to support the struggle of all the forces of progress and national liberation in the world and to back these forces' efforts to achieve their freedom, independence, progress and development.

He stressed that the Zionist enemy's recent law annexing the occupied Golan Heights will not change eternal truth. The occupied Golan Heights are a precious Syrian Arab land which is, like other Arab areas, occupied by the Zionist enemy. This law, Mashariqah added, will not affect our Arab masses' determination to continue their struggle until the liberation of the Golan, the holy city of Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and every single inch of the occupied Arab territories.

He said that the Zionist enemy's recent decision further confirms Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies and its colonialist settlement plans. Comrade Mashariqah condemned the United States as the strategic ally of the Zionist enemy and the side that supports each and every step of its aggressive measures against the Arab nation. The United States, he said, even stood in the face of the international community's will when it prevented the UN Security Council from punishing Israel for its decision to annex the Golan.

He also denounced the feverish U.S. activities, terrorism and blackmail at the UN General Assembly, intended to stop the member-states from voting in favor of the Arab resolution.

Comrade Mashariqah praised the UN General Assembly's historic resolution representing the international community's will, a resolution adopted in spite of U.S. efforts.

This resolution, Mashariqah stressed, constitutes a triumph for freedom and peace and a failure for hegemony and monopoly. This resolution is a step that will help place the international community in a better position to adopt decisive measures against aggression.

He said: The whole world denounced the Zionist enemy's behavior and considered it null and void because it was a deviation from UN law and a disavowal of UN resolutions. He added that the support from our brothers in the Arab world and from the forces of progress and liberation in the world, particularly the socialist bloc countries led by the friendly Soviet Union, has greatly contributed to the tremendous political victory for the Arab cause.

In conclusion, Comrade Mashariqah expressed the hope that the conference will adopt stands and resolutions that will serve to support Syria's steadfastness against the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

USSR Delegate Speaks

JN161755 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The AAPSO Arab and Middle East committees conference for the supporting Syria's steadfastness and condemning the Zionist decision to annex the occupied Golan Heights held its first session this morning under Ahmad al-As'ad, deputy chairman of AAPSO and deputy chairman of Syria's AAPSO committee. He delivered a speech welcoming the Arab and foreign delegations taking part in the conference. He referred to the fierce imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation aimed at bringing to its knees and implementing expansionist designs. He affirmed our people's determination under President Hafiz al-Asad to struggle against all forms of plots.

The Soviet delegate affirmed his country's support for Syria's steadfastness and condemned Israel's aggressive step of annexing the Golan Heights in violation of the UN charter and international law. He said that right and justice will ultimately triumph despite the actions of Israel and its protectors. The Soviet delegate praised Syria's steadfastness under President Hafiz al-Asad against all forms of plots, pointing out that Syria's stand is an expression of the Arab nation's will. He congratulated Syria and the Arab nation on a decisive political victory at the United Nations against the null and void Golan decision, referring to Washington's veto in support of aggression and reaffirming the USSR's position at the side of Arab right.

Ba'th, GDR Delegations Meet

JN170533 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, last night received the GDR delegation to the AAPSO Arab and Middle East committees conference for supporting Syria's steadfastness and condemning the Zionist decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The delegation is led by Comrade Kurt Seibt, Central Committee member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and chairman of both the Central Auditing Commission and the GDR Solidarity Committee.

The two sides reviewed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the SED. They also exchanged viewpoints on current developments in the region. Special attention was given to the aggressive Israeli policy backed by U.S. imperialism with the aim of imposing imperialist hegemony on the region. Comrade al-Ahmar explained the serious dimensions of the decision to annex the Golan and of the U.S. policy in support of Israel's aggression against our Arab people, particularly the recent U.S. stands aimed at disrupting the role of the international community and bodies in punishing the aggressor as wellas the heinous and blatant U.S. interference in Syria's internal affairs through the frenzied and poisonous campaign launched by its agent organs and tools in the world.

The Ba'th Party assistant secretary general pointed out Syria's role in confronting the imperialist and Zionist schemes as well as Syria's determination to continue the struggle for the liberation of occupied Arab territories and the restoration of Palestinian Arab usurped rights. Comrade al-Ahmar praised the support extended to our people's struggle by the GDR, the USSR and all world forces of progress and liberation.

The head of the GDR delegation stressed his country's firm support for Syria and the Palestinian people as well as the Arab nation's struggle for the restoration of its territories and rights.

Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Ba'th Party assistant regional secretary and chairman of the Syrian AAPSO committee, also received Kurt Seibt. Talks dealt with the cordial relations between the two friendly countries and the current situation in the Arab region in light of U.S. imperialist schemes and the Zionist aggression of annexing the Golan Heights. The two sides also stressed the need to continue efforts to strengthen relations among all world liberation forces so as to confront these schemes.

COMMENT ON ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS TUNIS MEETING

JN141610 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Arab foreign ministers emergency conference in Tunis asserted that the U.S. Middle East policy of assisting and supporting the Israeli enemy is hostile to the Arab nation and its vital interests. The Arab foreign ministers based this conclusion on a study of U.S. policy in the region and its unconditional support for Zionist aggression, including its strategic alliance with the Zionist entity as well as its attitude at the UN Security Council, thereby preventing the adoption of a resolution applying measures provided for by the UN Charter against Israel, and also its attitude at the UN General Assembly where Washington pressured other delegations into not supporting Arab rights.

What is most required of the Arab nation now is to take firm measures and to punish the United States. It is unreasonable for the United States to continue unlimited support for Zionist aggression, while Arabs are unable to respond to defend themselves and their existence in this serious phase of their cause and in circumstances marked by impending imperialist-Zionist danger for the Arab nation from everywhere, threatening present and future generations.

For Arab voices to be heard and effective, they must proceed from practical and firm measures against the forces of aggression and must depend on pooling Arab resources, as well as using all Arab weapons in the battle of pan-Arab destiny. This will place events in their true perspective and on their desired course.

First of these measures is to apply what has been approved by the international community against the forces of U.S.-Zionist aggression. It is the primary duty of the Arabs to carry out effectively what they are asking the international community to achieve in support of their cause and struggle.

Since the Arabs have decided and reiterated that the achievement of strategic balance is the basic task for them because it constitutes the mainstay for confrontation as well as the material basis for detering aggression, then this central task must occupy the major portion of their deliberations and their continued and intensive efforts to create a force capable of confronting and restoring the land and usurped Arab rights. Any laxity along this path constitutes a burden on confrontation and opens the way for the U.S.-Israeli onslaught to achieve its objectives of occupation, expansion and hegemony at the expense of Arab land and existence.

Hence, the importance of Syria's determination to effect the strategic balance with the Zionist enemy and to consider this aim a national and pan-Arab requirement depending on its own power and its people's ability and awareness of its pan-Arab role and its historical responsibilities. Syria, through concern for pan-Arab existence, sees that the task of achieving a strategic balance cannot be postponed pending the improvement of joint Arab action, because the United States and Israel can never postpone the implementation of their hostile plans until these circumstances improve. On the contrary the United States and Israel are working on sabotaging joint pan-Arab action in order to prepare for a suitable atmosphere to carry out all the chapters of the comprehensive plot.

Syria is determined to shoulder this historical responsibility and to take the initiative steadfastly against plots. Syria is also capable of aborting and destroying these plans and of creating all the necessary requirements to achieve victory in this total confrontation.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CALLS FROM LIBYAN, PDRY LEADERS

JN152230 Damascus Domestic Television Service 2150 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, this evening contacted His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad by telephone. They discussed Arab issues. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed great appreciation for Syria's steadfastness and praised Syria's important pan-Arab role of confrontation of the Zionist aggression and the U.S. schemes, stressing that Libya firmly supports Syria. The two sides agreed to meet soon.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, also contacted His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad by telephone. They exchanged views on regional issues. President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed appreciation for Syria's stand and steadfastness against the Zionist and imperialist schemes. He said: Syria embodies the Arab masses dignity and their determination to stand fast.

President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's firm stand in confronting all imperialist and Zionist conspiracies that are hostile to the Arab nation and Syria's determination to pursue its efforts until all the occupied Arab territories are liberated and the Palestinian people's rights regained. They agreed to pursue contacts and consultations.

JORDAN PATROLS BORDER TO STOP FEDAYEEN

JN140712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0625 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] The Jordanian regime has renewed its pledge to the U.S. administration to prevent Palestinian fedayeen from entering occupied Arab territory. Reports say that Jordanian helicopters and armored cars are now patrolling the border in coordination with Israel.

GOLAN RESIDENTS TO DECLARE 'INDEFINITE STRIKE'

JN130545 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] Syrian Arabs in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights yesterday threatened to declare an indefinite strike in 10 days unless the Zionist enemy authorities cancel their decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The Syrian citizens announced that the Zionist authorities are making preparations to establish a new settlement near the village of Majdal Shams. The citizens asked the Red Cross to send medical teams to replace Zionist doctors. They also announced that they will not pay taxes to the Zionist authorities or accept any services from them.

BEGIN CAUTIONS REAGAN ON SELLING ARMS TO JORDAN

TA161554 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The message expected to be sent by President Reagan will be a reply to the message sent by the prime minister this afternoon to the U.S. President. In his message, Mr Begin calls on the United States to not supply F-16's and improved Hawk missiles to Jordan. Mr Begin also discussed the issue with Senators Glenn and Cohen in Jerusalem today. Our political correspondent Gad Becker reports:

[Begin recording] This afternoon, the prime minister completed the second move in the Israeli campaign against the U.S.-Jordan arms deal. In a private message to President Reagan, Mr Begin cautions against the intention to sell F-16's and mobile improved Hawk missiles to Jordan and calls on him to prevent deal. Mr Begin reiterates Israel's arguments and emphasizes that, this time, the danger in store for Israel as a result of this deal has caused a decisive majority of the Israeli parties to close ranks and to adopt a unanimous resolution. Mr Begin informs the President about the contents of yesterday's Knesset decision. It is still nuclear whether the message will be handed over to Reagan immediately after the President has received the credentials of Ambassador Moshe Arens today. In any case, tonight, after the Reagan meeting with Arens, Jerusalem will expect to hear about the President's attitude toward this affair and the state of relations between the two countries. This relationship, based on mutual trust, is eroding, Democratic Senator John Glenn stated today after a meeting with the prime minister and the defense minister. Efforts should be made to reestablish this trust, Senator Glenn concluded. [end recording]

REAGAN REASSURES PRIME MINISTER ON U.S. POLICY

TA162026 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] President Reagan did not wait to receive the prime minister's message about the gravity of the plan to supply sophisticated weapons to Jordan and this evening hastened to clarify the U.S. position in a message of his own.

Our correspondent Shalom Qital reports that the message states that the U.S. President is determined to maintain Israel's qualitative and technological superiority. President Reagan is also aware of Mr Begin's concern over the quantity of the weapons and their impact on Israel's security. President Reagan claims that the reports in the press presented a mistaken and exaggerated interpretation of U.S. policy on military aid to the Middle East. This policy, however, has not changed. There is no change in arms supplies to Jordan and Secretary of Defense Weinberger did not bring back a new procurement request. Any decision on further sales to Jordan or other countries in the region would be made within the administration's commitment to Israel's security and the need to establish peace in the area.

Nevertheless, President Reagan believes that it is in the interest of both countries that Washington should strengthen its influence in other countries in the region. Our correspondent notes that, just as in previous cases, the current message is also formulated in a spirit of friendship; both the address to Mr Begin and the President's signature are in the first names of both men.

ARENS PRESENTS CREDENTIALS, CONVEYS BEGIN LETTER

TA170537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The U.S. President has promised the prime minister that Israel's military and technological superiority will be maintained. He wrote him that Jordan had not asked for new U.S. arms and that any decision on the sale of such arms to Jordan or to any other country in the region will take into account the administration's commitment to Israel's security.

President Reagan expressed understanding for Israel's concern over the quantity of arms the Arab countries have been receiving.

Similar remarks were made by the President to the new ambassador, Moshe Arens, as he presented his credentials at the White House. During the ceremony, Ambassador Arens said it is difficult to express in words the extent of the risk Israel had undertaken in signing the Camp David accords: It gave up territory with many resources that had played an essential security role.

Arens told our correspondent Shalom Qital that his conversation with President Reagan was, by and large, devoted to the sale of arms to Jordan.

A senior U.S. official told our correspondent that in his opinion the crisis over this was over, but Ambassador Arens said that one can hardly regard the issue as an isolated affair. The issue in question is our relations with the United States, he said, adding that this issue will interest us for many more years.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig expressed understanding for Israel's apprehension, and said that the President's message to the prime minister was aimed at calming him. According to him, no member of the administration had accepted the interpretation of the statements attributed to Secretary Weinberger on a change in U.S. policy toward Israel.

On another matter, Alexander Haig said that Israel is maintaining a very restrained position in southern Lebanon, but he said this situation will not continue forever unless the PLO likewise commits itself to restraint. The arms being funneled into southern Lebanon and the terrorist penetrations undermine the cease-fire. Haig was interviewed on the public television network.

SHAMIR: KNESSET CALL TO HAVE REVERBERATIONS

TA161355 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1315 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Ben-Gurion Airport, 16 Feb -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir departed this morning for Geneva where he will be the guest of honor at the central convention of the Israel Bonds Organization and will address the participants on Israel and the Middle East. Shamir will return to Israel on Wednesday [17 February] and will make a stop at the Paris Orly Airport on the way for a talk with Israel's ambassador to France, Dr Me'ir Rosenne, on the upcoming visit of the French president to Israel.

In reply to a question, Shamir made it clear that he thinks Israel had explained in the Knesset debate that it has one unified position, based on the decisive majority of the people of Israel, objecting to the supply of sophisticated U.S. arms to Jordan. "We hope this call, which emanated from the Knesset, will be responded to by the U.S. administration. We are convinced that we will hear the reverberations of this call in the next few days," he said. He added, "We are preparing for a wide-scale operation aimed at foiling the U.S. intentions of supplying additional, advanced arms to the Arab countries in the region. Our strategy will take various forms and the activity will be carried out as required by the development," the minister concluded.

Arms Flow Endangers Peace

TA161833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The massive flow of weapons into the Middle East poses a threat to the chances for peace in the region, says Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a speech he is to make this evening at an Israel bonds dinner in Geneva. With more details, political affairs reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] In his speech, the foreign minister charges that no matter where it comes from, there is no justification for unprecedented amount of military hardware flowing into the region, not even when it is going to so-called moderate countries. Mr Shamir says that even the Arab regimes that are called moderate openly declare that the weapons they are intended to be used against Israel.

Israel is engaged in a continuous struggle for its existence, he says, although it is not always waged on a military front. For example, the calls for recognition of the PLO and self-determination for the Palestinians cannot bring peace and coexistence between Jews and Arabs, but will bring the destruction of Israel, says Mr Shamir. For its part, Israel is ready to develop and broaden the peace process and to speedily conclude negotiations on Palestinian autonomy. Both goals are an integral part of the Camp David accords and will benefit everyone.

Foreign Minister Shamir also refers to the European role in the Middle East as well as that of the United Nations. Mr Shamir says there appears to be a change for the better regarding the Europeans and the Middle East. Since 1973, European statements and initiatives have shown complete indifference to the fate of Israel. Of late, though, Israel has detected an increasing willingness in Europe to listen to Israel's viewpoint and to engage in dialogue, although differences of opinion still remain. Mr Shamir said Israel has been encouraged by the votes of democratic European countries against the UN General Assembly resolution calling for Israel's isolation.

The foreign minister will tell his audience in Geneva tonight that the United Nations has not fulfilled the hopes of its founders. Although it has grown in membership, it has dropped its moral standards and adopted unjust positions and decisions. If Israel were to carry out UN resolutions adopted through the years, this country would have ceased to exist long ago, says Mr Shamir. Instead, Israel is determined to exist, develop and advance despite the United Nations. Tomorrow the foreign minister is to meet with representatives of various UN organizations based in Geneva to discuss Israel's position and attitude in the wake of the General Assembly anti-Israel resolution. The foreign minister returns here tomorrow night. [end recording]

Criticizes UN Organization

TA170726 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Israel has no intention of withdrawing from the United Nations, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir clarifed last night in Switzerland, after he issued his surprising statement calling for the establishment of a new international organization of the democratic countries to replace the United Nations or to operate alongside it. These remarks were made at a news conference in Geneva, where the foreign minister is currently staying on an Israel bonds mission. Here is a report by our correspondent Tzvi Lidar:

[Begin recording] I urge all the democracies in the world to establish a new international organization to curb the scandals of the United Nations. These were Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's opening statements in a brief news conference he held in Geneva. This was not in response to a question; it was a declaration made at the beginning of the news conference, prepared in advance and with an explicit intention. The foreign minister also harshly criticized the United Nations which, he said, has grown in size but not in quality. To cite an example of that organization's impotence, Mr Shamir mentioned the massacre in Hamah, northern Syria, where hundreds were killed and thousands injured while the United Nations -- whose job it is to maintain peace throughout the world -- is keeping silent. If Israel had fulfilled all the UN resolutions, the minister added, it would have ceased to exist long ago.

In a answer to a question, Mr Shamir rushed to explain that his declaration was not discussed with any other country in the world. What you have heard just now, he said, was the beginning of an idea.

In reaction to U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's call to arm Jordan with modern U.S. arms, the foreign minister said Israel should recruit the U.S. administration to fight this. If the need arises, he added, we will also recruit the U.S. public. The minister evaded a question on the supply of Israeli arms to Iran. Israel must export arms for its security, he said, and in order to manufacture it is similarly necessary to export. This is how he answered that question. The foreign minister will return to Israel today, but on his way back from Geneva he will make a stop in Paris for a few hours to hold another news conference in the airport as well as some other meetings. This is Tzvi Lidar in Bonn. [end recording]

EYTAN VIEWS SYRIAN MISSILES, ARMS TO JORDAN

TA141454 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] The chief of staff says he cannot conceive of our leaving the territories, even if an autonomy agreement is reached, because in his view abandonment of the territories is a security risk to Israel's very existence. The chief of staff was speaking at the Bene 'Aqiva Yeshiva in Netanya.

On another subject, Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan said the prospect of diplomatically solving the problem of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon is poor. As for the reports about the sale of U.S. arms to Jordan, the chief of staff said there is a danger that Jordan will become an element in the consolidation of the eastern front against us.

Further Details

TA142055 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2040 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Netanya, 14 Feb -- Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan said today that additional U.S. arming of Jordan would be dangerous.

"Jordan's military capability has a very strong impact on Israel. Even though Jordan is a small country, it has a long border with Israel: from Elat to the southern tip of Lake Tiberias. We might be open to the Jordanian Air Force, which will be able to reach our airfields within a matter of minutes. There is also the danger of Jordanian surface-to-air missiles," said the chief of staff in reply to students' questions presented during a visit to the Bene 'Aqiva Yeshiva in Netanya.

"Jordan, which has military potential, could initiate a confrontation along the eastern front, or, alternatively, might not be able to withstand pressures by the other countries to strike at Israel. It will be very significant if we have to fight both Syria and Jordan. Jordan is supported by the United States, which will be able to restrain it somewhat," the chief of staff said.

In reply to another question, he said Israel had not been warned by the Soviet Union about an attack in Lebanon. The Soviet Union supports the terrorists by supplying them with arms as well as by giving them political backing.

The chief of staff noted that the prime minister is making efforts to avoid bloodshed and use of force, but added that if we need to react to a terrorist operation, we will do so in accordance with Israel's interests.

About the Syrian missiles in Lebanon, he said the United States has undertaken to take care of the problem of the missiles through diplomatic means. The problem of the Syrians in Lebanon is complex, he said. As for the UN resolution condemning Israel, he said it is not dangerous as long as it does not have a practical implication, but the problem is complicated. Asked for his opinion on the withdrawal from the Sinai, he said that as chief of staff he should not express his personal view. Regarding the chances for peace with Egypt, he said he believes the peace treaty will be maintained. He said autonomy in the territories does not mean withdrawal from the territories.

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON ARMS TO JORDAN, LEBANON

TA121731 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by anchorman Yeshayahu Ben Porat, Shlomo Naqdimon of YEDI'OT AHARONOT and Gad Becker of the IDF Radio -- place, date not given; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Minister, with your permission I will open with a subject that is most topical, at least in this time and day. I have in mind what is going on in the relations between the United States and Jordan. Worrisome reports say that the United States is about to supply F-16 planes and sophisticated Hawk missiles to Jordan. What is your reaction, Mr Minister?

[Answer] I hope that the information that has reached us as a statement by a senior official of the United States does not reflect the policy of the U.S. administration. I am referring chiefly to the statement about a supply of sophisticated U.S. weapons to a country which is in a state of war with us. We see in this a grave danger to our security; we think that shipments of sophisticated arms today to any Arab country in the vicinity contributes nothing to peace in the area. On the contrary, they undermine the prospects of peace. We shall do everything in our power to prevent this dangerous move.

[Question] Mr Shamir, was Jerusalem surprised to learn that the United States might supply Jordan with Hawk missiles or with F-16 fighters? After all, if I am not mistaken, this subject had been raised, in one way or another, in the past too.

[Answer] This issue -- if you are referring to the mobile Hawk missiles -- has been raised before, and as is well known, the issue was rejected at the time by the Congress. There have been some reports or rumors, but this time we have an announcement by a senior figure in the U.S. administration, and this is serious.

[Question] Mr Minister, can you give us details of how we react in practice? Have directives already gone out to the embassy in Washington, is anyone about to go again to the United States? What is happening?

[Answer] I do not think I should give details of all the steps we are going to take, but we have already started actions on the administrative level in Washington. This will probably be one of the subjects with which our new ambassador will have to deal.

[Question] This brings us, Mr Shamir, directly to the question of how would you describe current U.S.-Israeli relations. Isn't a picture emerging, in which Washington is gradually abandoning Israel as a preferred ally in this region?

[Answer] The questions you are asking have been asked throughout years in the past, they continue to be asked, and will apparently keep being asked. The problem exists as long as hostile relations exist between Israel and Arab countries in this region; and as long as the United States is committed to the security of Israel, without giving up friendly relations with Arab countries, this dilemma will face the United States as well as us.

[Question] But it keeps growing more serious?

[Answer] I would not say that. If we look into the past, there were no less serious or consternating situations. I would not say that we are today in a more serious situation from that viewpoint. Let us not forget that, after all, the friendly relations between Israel and the United States continue to prevail and they are being reflected in various spheres.

Let us not exaggerate. Truly, there are various trends in the U.S. administration. There are trends less friendly to us and there are those that are more friendly. There are less sympathetic ones, and more sympathetic ones. We must struggle, explain and look after our own interests.

[Question] Are you prepared to say that there is a division between the Pentagon and the State Department?

[Answer] I would not be so precise in the division, but there are different factors -- sometimes in the same institution there are different views just as there are in every government. The U.S. administration is broad, it embraces the whole world, it is dealing with many issues and certainly there are different opinions on the Middle East problems as well.

[Question] Mr Shamir, you spoke about precedents from the past; when we speak about an argument with the United States over the supply of sophisticated weapons to Arab countries, then at once we think of the debate over the AWACS. In your estimation, in that affair, is there any possibility or potential, now with Jordan, of an argument or confrontation of the same dimensions as in the fight over the AWACS and the F-15 parts for the Saudis?

[Answer] I very much hope that we will not reach that level.

[Question] Is there such a danger from the aspect of the gravity with which Israel sees that deal?

[Answer] Of course, of course, there is danger, because there is gravity in that intention. There is gravity.

[Question] Mr Minister, do you already know when special envoy Philip Habib will come here?

[Answer] We still do not know. We have no fixed date. It may be assumed that it will be in the next few weeks.

[Question] Is there any chance that his mission will succeed?

[Answer] The question is, what is success?

[Question] That the Syrian missiles will be taken out of Lebanon.

[Answer] That is exactly what I meant. If the meaning is a basic solution of the problems forming the foundation of the crisis in Lebanon, then the chance is not, I would say, very good. But if success is defined as an attempt to calm the situation down and reduce dangers, then there is a chance for success.

[Question] But it is a fact that since the cease-fire, the terrorists are increasingly reinforcing themselves there by of bringing in enormous quantities of weapons. Does this not represent a direct danger for us? Is it not important if the war develops sooner or later?

[Question, interrupting] Perhaps I will put in a question here, if you permit me, Mr Minister...

[Question, interrupting] Perhaps it would be worth explaining to the public that during the week there has been a flood of reports and commentaries in the press, mainly abroad, but also here. I think that the public does not understand what exactly has happened. Was Israel on the point of going to war?

[Answer] Certainly not. We do not, at this moment, see any danger of war, but the entire public understands that Israel will not permit the terrorist organizations to harm Israel, to harm Israeli citizens, without Israel reacting, without Israel doing something to prevent such strikes in the future. This is clear to everyone. And it is clear that when the terrorists renew hostile activities, then Israel will have to react and do something, as it has done in the past.

[Question] What does it mean, renew hostile activities? What are the dimensions of this?

[Answer] I do not think....

[Question, interrupting] Perhaps I could make the question more pointed, the question that, it now seems, the argument with the United States is revolving around: What, really, is terrorist provocation, demanding an Israeli reaction?

[Answer] I do not think that I have to be precise in detailing these things. This depends on our decision. This depends on the decision of the institutions whose task it is to decide. This is a matter of weighing, of calculating and deciding. This cannot turn into an issue for public argument.

[Question] But we are being given the impression that we are faced with some sort of political obstacle -- namely, last July's cease-fire agreement in which it was specifically stated that the cease-fire applied to the Lebanese border, the border between southern Lebanon and Israel.

[Answer] Fine, that was not the meaning. By the way, for anyone who wants to be scrupulous about the language of that agreement: What was written there was that the hostile activities from Lebanon will stop. It did not say southern Lebanon, it did not say this or that border: simply from Lebanon.

[Question] Squads that receive orders to go out from Lebanon, too?

[Answer] Certainly, it can also be interpreted like that, but that is not the problem. After all, with or without an agreement, nobody will expect us to sit without doing anything when the terrorist organizations try or succeed in attacking Israeli citizens. We will be compelled -- that is our responsibility -- to do everything we can to stop this and to prevent those activities. At the same time, I would not propose nor would I recommend to the citizens of Israel that they regard this issue as the main, central issue we must deal with and around which all attention must be concentrated. There is a security problem here and it is clear to everybody that Israel has the suitable strength to prevent the attacks by the terrorist organizations. There is no danger, heaven forbid, to the existence of Israel from these organizations. That is not the main danger and that is not the main problem. We have many problems and issues that we must deal with and I do not understand all this panic about war. Who is speaking about war here? Israel has fought with the terrorist organizations for many years and nobody regarded this as war.

[Question] Mr Shamir, is it possible today -- in the situation that has been created in Lebanon and the relations between the Syrians, the Lebanese and the terrorists -- to work militarily against the terrorists without taking the risk of deteriorating to a greater confrontation -- to use your words, a war in which Syria will also be involved?

[Answer] If we judge from the past, then this is certainly possible. It is a fact that it has happened. It depends on the elements participating in the campaign and who appear in the field. I would answer your question by saying that it depends on the Syrians. The Syrians will fight against Israel when they decide to do so. It may be assumed that they do not now intend to do so.

[Question] They have difficulties elsewhere.

[Answer] Correct.

[Question] Domestic ones.

[Answer] Correct.

[Question] That brings me to the question, Mr Minister: I understand from your previous answer that you think that there may be domestic problems which are more urgent and more important than those problems we are discussing? Is that your opinion?

[Answer] I am not actually speaking about domestic problems, although I do think that the main problem facing Israel and which it will face in the future, both near and far, is how to develop and strengthen the State of Israel; that is our main problem. All the other issues involving our security against terrorists or Arab countries are secondary issues, and the task of those people who deal with it is to permit the State of Israel to live its life and exist and progress.

[Question] If so, Mr Shamir, everyone is waiting for 26 April. I do not, for the moment, want to ask you what you predict, what will happen on that date or what will not happen on that date; but from the aspect of the government's agenda or that of the leading political team, what is the political target following the completion of the Sinai evacuation? What is the target when there are difficulties, for example, in the autonomy talks?

[Answer] First of all, we must do everything for that peace for which we are today paying such a heavy price. Second, we must -- and we will -- continue with the autonomy negotiations in order to reach an agreement in the nearest possible future. We will make that effort. Third, we must see to it that the peace process, in its entirety, continues and, in the course of time, encompasses the other countries living in our neighborhood, too, without giving up Israel's most vital interests.

[Question] When you mention the perpetuation of the continued existence of the peace agreement, what exactly do you mean?

[Answer] Several simple things. Today, after the evacuation of the rest of Sinai, we are setting the southern border of the State of Israel. That will be the first border to be recognized by an Arab party and also by international parties -- for example the United States -- and, to a certain extent, also by those countries which by their participation in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] are expressing their support for that agreement which is the foundation of determining that border.

[Question] Including some of the European countries?

[Answer] Certainly. Now we have before us the other borders of Israel. Regarding the eastern one, we will -- through continuing the autonomy negotiations and the achievement of an agreement on that issue -- for a certain transition period, have to determine that border. After that we will have to continue on to the northern, northeastern borders; that is the way. It is a long road. Let us not delude ourselves, but, by a constant effort and a constant goal we hope that we will reach the target.

[Question] Mr Minister, in another 2 weeks we will receive in Israel, for the first time in our history, the president of France. I assume that all of us attribute importance to the visit. I would like to hear from you what you expect from that visit, in particular?

[Answer] First of all, the visit itself is a most important event. This is the first visit by a president of France to Israel. There is great symbolism in that event, in its being the first. We will have to clarify, with our important guest, the president of France, all those political issues about which we agree and on which we disagree. We hope that, as a result of this visit and these clarification talks -- which, as we hope, will be held in a friendly, most warm atmosphere -- a new period will open in the relations between us and France and perhaps also between us and Europe.

[Question] Will we receive any practical agreements [sikumim]? After all, a few weeks ago the French foreign minister was here and the talks were held in a good atmosphere. It was said that they were a preparation for the president's visit. Do you expect concrete agreements?

[Answer] This is very possible. The president is coming together with several ministers and we may reach concrete agreements in certain spheres. Perhaps we will determine, at that meeting, further meetings in order to reach such agreements.

[Question] Would you say that you or the prime minister will be able, in talks with the French president, to reach understandings about a joint political action by France and Israel, perhaps in Africa, perhaps in the EEC?

[Answer] I would not like to take the risk of guessing at the moment. After all, this depends on both sides. We, for our part at least, will do everything so that that visit will be fruitful and filled with results.

[Question] Nevertheless, we have to take risks, Mr Minister. This week, in an unusual way, the Knesset approved the possibility of applause after the speeches on his entry into the Knesset and after the speeches by President Mitterrand. Now, I have no doubt that, on the Palestinian issue, the president will say things that....

[Question, interrupting] To which no applause is deserved....

[Question, interrupting] It will be very hard indeed for the Likud government to applaud him for this. What will really happen? Is the text known in advance? Is anything known in advance about what he will say?

[Answer] First of all, the applause we will give him, is for his personality. He deserves it; his warm and special attitude deserves it; his attitude to Israel and to the Jewish people deserves it. We are sure that we will not agree with everything in his speech, but at the same time there will certainly be things in it with which we will agree. As for the main issue, the Palestinian issue, we will have to debate it and have a discussion with him -- a basic discussion -- in order to analyze the problem and understand him well and see to it that he understands us well. And if, after that exhaustive discussion, we reach the conclusion that there are some differences of opinion between us, then we will decide among ourselves that, despite those differences of opinion, we will continue with the friendly relations and understanding.

[Question] I would like to move on to another subject, to Israel's foreign relations. A few months ago you met with your Soviet counterpart and there were many stories in the press about that visit. Did that visit produce any results?

[Answer] It is altogether impossible to expect that one talk should produce results. It is a matter of a process and, to this day, the foreign ministers of the State of Israel have met with the foreign minister of the Soviet Union once every 5 or 6 years. So it is difficult to expect any practical results. In the course of time, we may see that there were results. To this day I cannot indicate anything specific which changed the relations between us and the Soviet Union as a result of that talk.

[Question] What do you think of the Soviet Union's intention as has been published, that it will renew its relations with Egypt?

[Answer] There are reports, I cannot relate to reports. After all, it is clear that Egypt has not severed its relations with the Soviet Union. There is only a certain weakness in those relations; perhaps they will now strengthen, but we will have to react to that when it happens.

[Question] Does that intention worry you, the closeness of the ties, or Mubarak's discussing the Soviet Union's role in the peace process?

[Answer] We do not agree with everything said by President Mubarak and not everything he says appears to us as reassuring. Egypt has its own policy, of course, the president of Egypt has his own policy, but when several things accumulate -- the attitude toward the Soviet Union, the relations with the nonaligned world, the possibility of a return to the Arab world -- all these together cause us problems.

[Question] I presume that you will certainly want to discuss these things with President Mubarak when he comes to Jerusalem, but when will he come?

[Answer] Undoubtedly we will discuss this with President Mubarak and with his aides, when we meet with them. No date has yet been determined for President Mubarak's visit, but it may be assumed that it will be held in the near future.

[Question] But is it your impression that President Mubarak is deviating, with or without inverted commas, from the path of his late predecessor?

[Answer] I would not say deviate; there are certain differences which appear to the naked eye. There are differences in the formulations, there are differences in the way of expressing themselves, the ways of working, but we will discuss this with him when he....

[Question, interrupting] [words indistinct] does the United States share the Israeli concern, the certain concern at those phenomena involved in Mubarak's new administration?

[Answer] I would not want to speak for them.

[Question] Another issue in foreign affairs: Can you tell us something about our future relations with Africa, if something is happening now?

[Answer] What is happening is a constant effort by us to maintain contacts, to expand the contacts, to make progress in improving the links between us and Africa. There are many obstacles on the path to development of the relations to the point of bringing them to a state of normal diplomatic relations. Every act that is done and published arouses counterefforts by hostile elements, by the Arab countries, which put pressure on the African countries not to take that decisive step. We must always continue and struggle in that process. I can only say that every day efforts are being made in that direction.

[Question] Is Egypt helping, hindering, or neutral?

[Answer] I have no answer at present.

[Question] With your permission, we will move on to domestic matters. In one of the last discussions by what is called a ministerial forum, held at the end of last week, the prime minister referred to the issue which also occupied Mr Begin's previous government a great deal, and also previous governments -- that is the matter of leaks. When it involved quite important matters in fields of foreign affairs and security, the prime minister appealed to and asked ministers to give him suggestions about how to fight the leaks. Do you intend to give him a suggestion on that matter? And what would it be?

[Answer] I have several ideas and I will bring them to the prime minister. Certainly you will not ask me to go into detail about those proposals today, before I bring them to the prime minister. But the truth is that this is a plague, it is harmful, it is causing damage to the country.

[Question] From what you said earlier about Africa, can it be understood that the publicity about relations with Africa, the publicity after the defense minister toured Africa, were obstacles on the path to developing relations? Are they, now, in fact, the shoal on which progress is stuck?

[Answer] I did not mean any specific publicity. Any such publicity could push back the progress occasionally achieved. At the same time, it is not necessary to exaggerate and say that the publicity is the main obstacle. There are more important obstacles.

[Question] The Golan Heights Law, for example?

[Answer] No, not necessarily; there are interests, there are interests. There are economic interests which are hard for us to cope with and compete with. There are political interests of relations with various superpowers. There are here and there personal interests of the leaders of countries. After all, we must not forget that we are not, in this case, dealing with democratic countries. There is a whole series of obstacles which must be constantly dealt with until the time is ripe and we will be able to reach some sort of peak in our efforts, in our achievements, when some country will be the first to make the breakthrough.

[Question] Is there any light at the end of the tunnel?

[Answer] The trouble is that it is impossible to see any light.

[Question] A few weeks ago, there was some talk that perhaps in April, after the withdrawal from Sinai is completed, some African countries may seek renewal of relations. Would you say today that it would be realistic to expect that the completion of the withdrawal will signal a renewal of relations, or would it be better to wait for a later date?

[Answer] This is not something that is connected with a certain date. The rumors about the influence of the date of withdrawal originate in the fact, or in the logical analysis that, since the African countries severed relations with Israel because of the state of war with Egypt, because of the fact that we, as it were, invaded Egyptian soil, then it is obvious that when this situation no longer exists, when there is no more Israeli presence on Egyptian territory, then the basis for the severance of the relations will disappear and they will have to renew those relations. That is clear, logically; but, as is known, it is not logic alone that determines and decides.

[Question] I would like to return from Africa to Jerusalem, to the continuation of the question I asked earlier. The only actual paper of the coalition -- HATZOFE -- writes today that, specifically, a senior minister from the Likud was the primary leak on issues of security affairs we mentioned earlier. I want to ask you, as one who participates in the most restricted forums of the government, do you have the feeling that one of your colleagues is leaking information? Or do you know how this matter has evolved?

[Answer] I have no such feeling and it is very difficult to determine through what channels reports that should not reach the media do reach them. I would also like to add something. The trouble with the leaks is not that we have expressed regret that our public should know more. On the contrary. Sometimes it is desirable for the public to know a great deal about the situation as it is. The problem is that as soon as you bring the reports to the public, those reports cross the borders, they also reach hostile, enemy elements whom under no circumstances do we want to know these matters. That is the danger.

[Question] But how is it that we can have a situation like that of last week, when the public in Israel learns about the, as it were, secret trip by the chief of the IDF intelligence branch to Washington from the U.S. press?

[Question] Have there already been many similar trips?

[Answer] It is also difficult to know how reports reach the U.S. press. There are some who say that they can also come from Israel; but this is really a grave problem and I would say that the damage caused by these leaks is not always direct damage, of a certain report published with a delay of several days -- and that is how it generally happens -- and it really caused grave security or political damage. This is not in all the cases. I would say not even in most of the cases. The damage caused is that people stop putting their trust in the ability of the State of Israel to keep certain things secret. This is a fact, that today, too, in the era of the media, many things are kept secret by almost all the world's countries. There is a whole set of things that are dealt with through secret channels, and we cannot be different. As soon as this is recognized, that this is impossible in Israel -- and you hear this from various politicians in the world -- then damage is caused by this.

[Question] Have you discussed the leaks?

[Answer] Undoubtedly, yes. It does not matter if it was me, personally, or one of my representatives, who reports to me about this, but certainly this is discussed. How is it possible not to speak about it?

[Question] Mr Shamir, we have dealt a great deal with the anti-Israeli vote in the UN General Assembly and its significance has been analyzed and there is no point in going into those details again, but afterward there was some talk that there is a fear that the Arabs or other anti-Israeli nations in the world will try to take advantage of that resolution to press for further achievements in its wake. Are there any signs that this is occurring?

[Answer] We do not need to look for signs. We know that this is their intention and they will put themselves out to make efforts for Israel to be harmed as a result of that resolution; and here and there can be seen signs of their attempts. I cannot say today that they are not going to succeed or that they are succeeding. That is a matter being dealt with daily by the Foreign Ministry.

[Question] You are not known as someone who supplies data, but can you give us any idea of what they are trying to do, how they are trying to take advantage of the resolution?

[Answer] After all, it is logical that if a UN resolution recommends the severance of all relations with Israel, it is logical that someone should go to a certain country and tell it: Here, this is the UN resolution, what is keeping you from doing it? Or, if someone goes and speaks with a country that is considering renewing relations with us, saying: Look, what the UN General Assembly decided with such a massive majority, how can you do this? This is altogether, part of the political argumentation, [last word in English] the political pressures of our enemies.

[Question] Mr Minister, I would also like to return to Jerusalem. How do you regard the language used in the press over the last few weeks, calling the government the Begin-Shamir-Sharon government?

[Answer] It is hard to understand the different interpretations of the media. It also changes from period to period. If it has appeared over the last few days or last few weeks, here and there, who knows how long this will last.

[Question] But does it expose an existing political reality? That is, there is a team, a threesome, which in fact makes the government's important decisions?

[Question] Perhaps, if you will permit me, Yesha'yahu, to interrupt: Perhaps you would be willing, Mr Shamir, to describe the decision-making process among the three of you in the political-security field?

[Answer] You have already decided that there is a leading threesome....

[Question] There is a prime minister, a foreign minister and a defense minister, that is their business.

[Answer] Correct, there is always a prime minister and there is always a foreign minister and a defense minister. First of all, in this government there are no kitchens -- that is, there are no decisions not made in a forum determined in accordance with the law and in accordance with Cabinet decisions. For example, decisions on security matters, important decisions on foreign policy matters are not decided before the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs has discussed them and has decided.

[Question] The entire Cabinet?

[Answer] Which works with the authority of the Cabinet.

[Question] It is also the majority of the Cabinet.

[Answer] All right, but everything is brought to that committee for discussion and decision.

[Question] But there are meetings held -- and it is certainly legitimate -- of that threesome you mentioned by name earlier.

[Answer] Sometimes, after all, there are consultations between the prime minister and a certain minister on matters involving that minister's ministry. There are matters that involve two ministers. We know, for example, that in our situation there are many matters that involve, to the same extent, or to a similar extent, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, whem sometimes it is difficult to separate the issues. Thus, sometimes there are consultations between the prime minister, the defense minister and the foreign minister. It is natural.

[Question] How much cooperation is there today between the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry? For example, in such a mission as that of Major General Sagi to Washington -- was it not reported that the major general met with Secretary Alexander Haig -- would it not have been fitting for the major general, the military expert, to have been accompanied by a diplomat?

[Answer] First of all, he was accompanied by a diplomat. Second, that decision -- let us assume that it is permissable already to speak about that mission, which has already been publicized by the State Department, as a fact -- was also made within that same framework I described earlier.

[Question] In any event, there is talk about a leading threesome and you presented me with a counterquestion, on what basis have you since decided that there is indeed a leading threesome? The question is, that from time to time reports are published that a struggle is being conducted, or that there are efforts on the part of the defense minister to undermine the Foreign Ministry. Perhaps it would be worth hearing an explanation of this matter.

[Answer] I said specifically that there is no leading threesome. There is a prime minister, there is a Cabinet, there is a Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs and there are ministers each of whom deals with his affairs. All the talk about some sort of competition between the Foreign Ministry and any other ministry is groundless. I have no reason to complain about any government ministry which interfere with affairs of the Foriegn Ministry of deviates from its authority and infiltrates or invades the authority of the Foreign Ministry.

[Question] That is, something has changed for the better, because it is known that in the past there were many cases of rifts, really, between the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry during various periods.

[Answer] I have read a great deal about this. Sometimes there are differences of opinion on the same issues that involve both ministries; this is natural, because each one looks from a certain point of view. Something like this can also happen -- and it does happen sometimes -- with us, too, but matters are dealt with according to decisions made by the appropriate ministry.

[Question] Mr Shamir, another question on topical matters of today in Israel: political appointments. What do you think about this and what is the situation in the Foreign Ministry regarding political appointments to senior posts in the Foreign Service?

[Answer] I think this is exaggerated. In the past, when the Alignment was in power, nobody took an interest in the various appointments of this or that ambassador nor would they even speak about the Foreign Ministry because they accepted it as natural, as though it came from nature, that a Labor Party man would be appointed to particular posts.

Today, when there is a difference, when here and there someone who does not belong to that party is appointed, then eyebrows are raised and people begin to ask: What is this, politicization?

[Question] I will tell you, Mr Minister, I, too, am among the journalists who raise eyebrows on these issues. Our feeling is this: There really was a period, a very long period, particularly when Mapai was in power, even before the Labor Party, when appointments were political, particularly in the Foreign Service. After that, if I am not mistaken, there was a period when this matter calmed down. That is, it is true that most places were staffed by members of that party, but after that, the establishment took on more and more the face it should have in a democratic country, of civil servants [last two words in English], of nonpolitical people. That was the feeling; perhaps I am mistaken. The feeling today is that you are somehow turning the wheel backward and trying, in the second term of the Likud government, to take advantage of and man many posts for purely political reasons.

[Answer] I do not accept your claim, your claim about the past. I wish it had been true. I would be very happy about that. But it was not so and, in fact, what we are trying to do today is simply to create a more normal situation, in which people with a different political shading, from different circles, from different shades, may participate in the establishment.

[Question] Mr Shamir, recently the impression has been given that the coalition is weakening a little, perhaps it is also because of its narrow parliamentary basis. Reports follows report: What is happening in TAMI, in the NRP, the Liberal faction and so on? Is there any thought, aftr 26 April, of incorporating Telem or the Tehiya in the government?

[Answer] Well, there have always been and there always are difficulties in a coalition and especially when, as you said, the majority is small and of course we would be happy to broaden the coalition and the coalition heads are aware of the fact and every day they check every possibility of expanding the coalition.

[Question] Including a national unity government?

[Answer] That, too, we have not, this time, dismissed from our calcuations.

[Question] What are the chances, what are the results of these examinations? Is there any potential?

[Answer] Such possibilities certainly do exist and I hope that they will be realized in the future, but even if they are not realized, this government can finish its term with the majority existing today.

[Question] If you would permit me a more general question: Do your many affairs and trips as foreign minister leave you time also to deal with politics, to sit in the Herut center, in the party and so on?

[Answer] The answer, to tell you the truth, it does not leave me time for this and I deal with this very little. But, nevertheless, I take an interest, listen and sometimes express my views.

[Question] I would like to ask a question which is a little hypothetical, in the political sphere. Is there sometimes a moment when you, as one of the policymakers of Israel, think of the question: If what occurred on Yom Kippur had not occurred, what would our political situation be today?

[Answer] Well, the truth is that I have no time to think about such hypothetical questions let alone formulate a reply. Neither do I see any special importance in this. I need to concentrate all my strength on finding solutions to existing questions and questions that arise from day to day.

[Question] In any event, that is a question for a dissertation, certainly not for the last minute of this interview.

[Question] Now I ask a question which will perhaps return us to the issue we dealt with at the beginning -- the issue of Lebanon, the topical issue. Mr Shamir, is there any soul searching in Jerusalem about the conditions under which Israel signed or committed itself to stop fighting in Lebanon?

[Answer] I do not think there is any regret for the fact because, after all, we must not forget that this agreement was a serious achievement for Israel. It stopped those hostile actions in which, at one point, there was a certain advantage to the other side and it is a fact that today we hear from various sides that the terrorists are in distress, they cannot exist without actions against Israel. For how long can such an organization -- whose justification for existence, whose raison d'etre is to hit Israel -- exist; and how long can it exist without carrying out attacks, and we brought it to this, to a great extent thanks to that agreement, we brought it to this situation and so I do not think that there is a reason to regret that agreement.

'EVRON: DIALOGUE WITH U.S. MUST BE RENEWED

TA152005 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Former Israeli Ambassador to Washington Efrayim 'Evron today appeared before the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee and warned of a further deterioration in Israel's standing in the United States and also among the Jewish community there. It was the ambassador's first appearance since he concluded his tour of duty in Washington. With a report on 'Evron's remarks to the committee, here is our Knesset reporter Hayim Yavin.

[Yavin -- live] A gloomy picture of Israeli-U.S. relations, worrisome comments about our standing in Washington: These are some of the reactions by members of the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, from the coalition and the opposition alike, following the comments they heard today from Israel's former ambassador to Washington, Efrayim 'Evron. 'Evron related that prior to leaving for home he met Soviet Ambassador to Washington Anatoliy Dobrynin who expressed amazement that Israel was so interested in the strategic memorandum with the United States. 'Evron said that the annexation of the Golan had come at a bad time. Reagan's government, he told the committee, was expressing a lack of trust in Israel which was unparalleled in the relations between the two countries. At the same time, the former ambassador believed, relations with Washington could be repaired, though it is doubtful whether we will ever again attain the level we were accustomed to, or, as he put it, business as usual.

The U.S. administration talks about Israel's security superiority, 'Evron said, but it does not compensate us when our security is affected -- in contrast to the past. At times the administration takes brutal measures against Israel, 'Evron said, adding: Israel once opposed an evenhanded policy on the part of the United States, but recently, even to return to that policy he had to remind the administration that there was an evenhanded policy at one time.

Ambassador 'Evron's advice is to refrain from public arguments with the United States, as every such argument only reinforces the feeling of Israel's enemies that they can isolate us and creates the impression that there is a conflict of interests between Israel's needs and U.S. interests. 'Evron provides an illustration: 4 days have passed since Weinberger spoke about a tough policy toward Israel, but President Reagan has not yet explicitly dissociated himself from these remarks. Despite all this, 'Evron says, the dialogue with Washington must be renewed.

He had no less worrisome things to say about the attitude of the Jewish communities in the United States. The Presidents Conference of Jewish Organizations supports us without change, but the support of the various communities is no longer automatic -- not in every situation. True, there is no crisis with U.S. Jewry, but there is a problem, a difficult problem, the outgoing ambassador said.

GOLAN DRUZE STRIKE TO PROTEST ARREST OF 4 LEADERS

TA131641 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] In a rally of Druze from all Golan villages which took place at Majdal Shams this afternoon, it was decided to begin a general strike tomorrow morning. Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, reports that hundreds of participants at the rally, including numerous clerics, decided not to open schools and shops and call on laborers not to go to work. The rally was convened to protest the arrest of four pro-Syrian leaders on the Golan Heights, on suspicion that they had incited civil rebellion. The participants at the rally declared the strike would last until the four are released and until the government repeals the application of Israeli law to Druze villages in the Golan. Several supporters of Israel among the Druze told our correspondent that their opponents began to plot against them and even attempted to do them bodily harm.

Jewish Settlers Urge Action

TA131644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] The Golan Settlement Committee is calling on the government to act firmly at once against the fear and terror that is being imposed, according to the committee, by an extremist minority in the Druze villages in cooperation with the PLO. The committee claims most of the Golan Druze desire normal and decent day to day relations within the framework of the state.

Our correspondent, Hayim Hecht, has learned that during this weekend a decision was made in most of the Golan settlements not to employ Druze refusing to accept Israeli identification cards, and to demand of institutions and contractors that they, too, not employ Druze who openly oppose the State of Israel.

Ministry Cancels Druze Meeting

TA150755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] The Interior Ministry has unexpectedly cancelled this morning the scheduled meeting between Golan Druze and their brethren from across the border. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that about nine students intending to study at Damascus University were to come to the meeting near Majdal Shams. No explanation was given for the cancellation of the meeting, but Druze on the Golan Heights claim the Interior Ministry made the cancellation in reaction to the general strike begun yesterday.

Hundreds of Druze Fired

TA161522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Hundreds of Druze villagers on the Golan Heights have received dismissal notices from their employers in Qiryat Shemona and the kibbutzim in the area because they did not show up for work because of a strike. Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, notes that it is not clear whether the dismissals had been coordinated with government representatives or had been merely decided upon by the employers.

SAUDI CALL FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH PLO REJECTED

TA150948 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Feb 82 pp 1, 7

[report by political correspondent Ilan Kefir]

[Excerpt] Israel has rejected outright Saudi Arabia's renewed proposal that direct peace talks be held with Israel provided it accepts the PLO as a main party to the talks.

The Saudi Government's readiness to launch peace negotiations with Israel on condition that it agree to include the PLO in the negotiations. [incomplete sentence as published]

In reaction, it was reported from Jerusalem this morning that this Saudi plan introduces nothing new and is nothing but another version of the Fahd plan aiming at establishing a Palestinian state and effecting an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines (east Jerusalem included). Israel similarly totally rejects the Saudi demand that the PLO be included in the negotiations. Jerusalem described the Saudi proposals as a "public relations stratagem " intended to give Saudi Arabia a moderate image. Israel is prepared to conduct negotiations for peace with Saudi Arabia, but without any preconditions.

ARABIC SERVICE VIEWS SAUDI MINISTER'S PROPOSAL

JN141355 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab world 1125 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Observation by Ya'Qub Khazmah]

[Text] Ever since its establishment, Israel's stand has been to work for peace with its neighbors. Peace has been, and still is, the main goal of any Israeli Government. The Arab countries, however, have been stubbornly rejecting peace; thus, wars were waged and ended without solving the problem. On the contrary, these wars added many other problems. The situation continued in a vicious circle. The Arabs were unable to defeat Israel and Israel was unable to make the Arab states conclude peace with it.

The situation remained so until the late President Anwar as-Sadat made his historic initiative, which resulted in the conclusion of the Camp David agreements by which the peace treaty between Egypt and Isreal was reached. Peace, then, cannot be acheived except by the common desire of the disputing parties and through a calm and constructive dialogue without threatening to wage war and with good intentions shown by the two sides.

We are saying this in connection wit Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal's statement to the Saudi paper 'UKAZ that Israel will not accept peace until military defeat. According to the Saudi minister, the Arab states must wage war on Israel and defeat it and then Israel will accept peace.

Is this logical of the Saudi foreign minister? Prince Fahd has formulated an eight point peace plan. Is Sa'ud al-Faysal's statement the ninth point? Israel has said, and still says, to Saudi Arabia and other Arab states that if they want peace, they must come and negotiate without preconditions and stop repeating these expressions because they are of no use to anyone and will not change anything.

HADDAD ADMITTED TO RAMBAM HOSPITAL 14 FEB

TA160724 Jerusalem POST in English 16 Feb 82 p 3

[Text] Haifa -- Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of the Christian forces in southern Lebanon, has been hospitalized at the Rambam hospital here. Haddad, who complained of feeling unwell, arrived at the hospital by car on Sunday evening. Deputy hospital director Dr. Tzvi Ben-Yishai said the major was being given a general check up which would last for a few days. "There is nothing seriously wrong with him," he stressed. He has been put up in the intensive care pavillion in the hospital grounds, not because he is in need of intensive care but because it's the most convenient place for us," Ben-Yishai said. Haddad has been hospitalized at the Rambam on several previous occassions, the last time in April 1981.

COMMITTEE APPROVES 'PRESETTLEMENTS' IN W. BANK

TA142007 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] The Settlement Committee today approved the establishment of 14 new presettlements [ma' ahazim] throughout Judea and Samaria. Our correspondent on settlement affairs, Yig'al Goren, reports that the proposal to establish the presettlements was raised by Defense Minister Ari 'el Sharon. The examination of the ownership of the lands in the areas slated for those presettlements has not yet been completed, nor have the budgets for their establishment been appropriated. The Defense Ministry will finance the establishment of those presettlements.

Speaking before the committee today, the defense minister complained about a grave shortage of funds for the development of the infrastructure in Judaea and Samari, saying that the Defense Ministry cannot alone bear the burden of the expenses this involves. Today, the committee also approved the establishment of a new settlement northwest of Lake Tiberias which will absorb families that will be evacuated from the Heru-Betar settlements in the Yamit district.

NEW PALESTINAIN CP TO SEEK TIES WITH PLO

TA141359 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 82 pp 1, 2

[report by West Bank correspondent Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Text] An independent Palestinian Communist Party was established in the past few days. It includes Palestinian communists who reside in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and other countries, though not Jordan.

The Palestinian communists living in Jordan will continue to be members of the Jordanian communist party, whose secretary general, Faysayig Warrad, is a native of Ramallah. He was expelled by the Israeli military government in 1967.

The establishment of a Palestinian Communist Party has "corrected an anomaly," as one Palestinian communist leader put it. Whereas the demand for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state has won support worldwide, Palestinian communists continued to belong officially to the Jordanian Communist Party, which they joined in the early 1950's, following Jordan's occupation of the West Bank. Now it has been decided to separate the parties, which means a greater voice for the demand that a Palestinian state separate from Jordan be established.

The decision on the establishment of an independent and separate Palestinian communist party was made, as the party's official organ, AL-WATAN (THE HOMELAND), notes, with the full consent of the Jordanian Communist Party. The two parties will maintain "extremely close ties," according to a manifesto published in AL-WATAN.

It has been learned that major communist parties both in the East (the Soviet Union, East Germany, etc) and in the West (France and others) were in on the secret and expressed support for the establishment of a separate Palestinian communist party on the grounds that there was no longer any point to having Palestinian and Jordanian communists belong to the same body. Suggestions that the Palestinian and Jordanian communists be separated were made in recent years, but the Soviet leadership kep putting off a decision.

Announcements about the Palestinian Communist Party's establishment have been sent to communist parties thorughout the world. They are expected to welcome this step, which, as far as the international communist movement goes, means reemphasized support for the "Palestinian option."

Rakah Secretary General Me'ir Wilner told this reporter that his party had received a letter from the Central Committee of the Palestinian Communist Party regarding its establishment. "We shall treat this positively in a special communique," he said.

"This is the right step at the right time. Conditions necessitated this development." Wilner termed the event "an historic shift as far as the communist movement in the Middle East is concerned."

In the first session of the Central Committee, a secretary general and a Political Bureau were chosen.

The report on this, which was published in the underground paper AL-WATAN, notes neither when the session was held nor the name of the secretary general. Informed observers assume that he is not in the territories.

The announcement about the formation of the Palestinian Communist Party notes that the decision on this was taken "in view of the expansion of the international recognition of the demand for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state." The communique surveys the struggles of the Palestinian communists for national independence from the period of the British mandate until recent times. Taking this into account, the party demands representation in all the leadership forums of the PLO, which it regards as the sole and exclusive representative of the Palestinian people.

Observers believe that pressure will be brought to bear on the PLO leadership to include communists on the PLO's Central Committee on the first occasion that changes are made in that body. The communists will also demand greater representation in various Palestinian organizations active in Lebanon. The Palestinian communists have a larger representation in various organizations (trade unions, student associations and the like) in the territories than in Lebanon.

Regarding the situation in the territories, the Palestinian Communist Party calls for the formation of an "extremely broad" national front and declares that it will struggle against those "who prefer narrow class interests over national interest, at the expense of the working class and all the Palestinian workers." At the same time, the announcement states that "the party will not put forward the problem of the regime of the future Palestinian state as a condition for its joining a national front, but neither will it forego its long-term interest in building communism." As expected, the communique condemns the Camp David accords and the autonomy plan, as well as the settlements and the suppression in the territories. It supports the Brezhnev plan for resolving the Middle East conflict through an international conference that will discuss ways to establish a just and durable peace. In addition to an Israeli withdrawal from the territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state, the communique demands the return of the refugees in accordance with the UN resolution.

Communist activity in the territories is banned. In its suppression of the communists, the military government bases itself on, among other points, the Jordanian law for combating communism. It is for this reason that distribution of the weekly AT-TALI'AH, which is close to the communists and which is published in East Jerusalem, was banned in the territories. Recently a Gaza youth was sentenced to 2 months in prison because communist posters were found in his possession.

BRIEFS

TOURISM BUREAU IN CAIRO -- An Israeli tourism bureau opened in Cairo this morning. A Tourism Ministry representative, Morris Casuto, traveled last night by El Al to Egypt with two boxes of booklets, pictures and up to date information about tourism sites in Israel. Casuto (56), an Egyptian-born hotel owner in Israel, was appointed to his post by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir. He will be fulfilling his mission on a voluntary basis. His salary will be 1 shekel per year. The Israeli tourism bureau will be initially located, at the Israeli Embassy building in Cairo. [Text] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Feb 82 p 1 TA]

UN ENVOY TERM -- Professor Yehuda Blum's term as ambassador to the United Nations will be extended. Professor Blum, currently in Israel for consultations, concluded with the prime minister and the foreign minister that he would serve as ambassador at the United Nations for another year. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Feb 82 p 1 TA]

ALGERIA

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 14 FEB

LD142104 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Algiers this afternoon, heading a delegation on an official visit to Algeria. Mohamed Ben Yahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign affairs minister, and a number of the ministry's senior officials as well as the Iranian ambassador in Algiers welcomed Dr Velayati on his arrival.

The Iranian foreign minister is leading a delegation comprised of the deputy ministers of labor and agriculture and a number of senior officials in the Ministries of Commerce, Petroleum and Foreign Affairs.

In a short statement to the press, Dr Velayati expressed [words indistinct]. The Iranian foreign minister said the two peoples and countries are friendly and brotherly and it is natural we should discuss international matters. He ended his statement by saying his visit will make it possible to bolster relations between Algeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Bendjedid Reception

LD152100 Algier Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] At the presidential palace this morning, President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the party, received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is officially visiting our country.

During the meeting, the Iranian minister delivered a message to President Bendjedid from President of the Iranian Islamic Republic 'Ali Khomeyni. The meeting was attended by Brother Mohamed Ben Yahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign affairs minister, and the ambassadors of the two countries.

First Session of Talks

LD152106 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Algerian-Iranian political talks began today. They are chaired by Brother Mohamed Ben Yahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, on the Algerian side and Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister, on the Iranian side.

During this first session of talks, the two ministers exchanged views on the most important current issues.

IRNA Account

LD161012 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Algiers, 16 Feb (IRNA) -- Iranian Foreign Minister De Velayati currently visiting in Algeria had a meeting with his Algerian counterpart, Ben Yahia, on Monday and outlined principles of the foreign policy of Iran. In the meeting they stressed that the U.S. tried to influence the progressive Islamic countries of the region and strengthen its lackeys in strategic areas. They outlined how in Africa the United States, by dispatching arms to the Moroccan Government helped this regime to suppress the struggles of the Western Sahara. Velayati said that in the Middle East the U.S. had practiced such actions against the Islamic Republic of Iran and it was now one and half years that Iran was fighting against the U.S. on the Iraqi borders.

The Iranian foreign minister added that the recent trip of U.S. defence secretary to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Oman indicated that the U.S. intended to expand its presence in the region. Velayati said that Iran had repeatedly announced that the United States was the main enemy of Islamic countries and therefore countries like Libya, Algeria, Syria, Iran and PLO and the Democratic Republic of Yemen, in order to neutralise the U.S. conspiracies, should cooperate with each other. Both parties stressed that the presence of the Soviet Union's forces in Afghanistan could not be ignored and that all Muslims of the world asked the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

Velayati Press Conference

LD170006 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, held a press conference yesterday evening after the conclusion of the talks between Algerian and Iranian delegations, in which he stressed Iran does not seek Algeria's mediation in the conflict between Iran and Iraq. He explained that the conditions for achieving peace between the two quarrelling sides have not changed since the beginning of the conflict and these conditions are: Iraqi forces should withdraw from Iranian territory; war losses should be compensated and an international organization or a fraternal country should determine who is the aggressor.

After explaining that his Algerian visit is aimed at strengthening Algerian-Iranian relations, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati categorically denied reports that Israel has been supplying Iran with weapons.

16 Feb Meetings

LD162116 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly Brother Rabih Bitat received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is officially visiting Algeria.

In their talks, they dealt with bilateral relations and particularly cooperation between the two assemblies. They also exchanged views on the international situation. The meeting also was attended by the ambassador of the two countries.

Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani recieved Foreign Minister Velayati at the government palace this afternoon. The talks, which dealt with ways of promoting bilateral relations, took place in a cordial atmosphere. Brother Abdelkarim Ghraieb, Algerian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, attended the talks.

At the Foreign Ministry headquarters, Algerian-Iranian political talks continued today. The talks mainly dealt with the situation in the Gulf area, northwest Africa and the development of the Nonaligned Movement.

The two delegations also discussed the implementation of the Algiers agreements signed last January between the Iranian and U.S. Governments to release the U.S. diplomats who were detained at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

The two delegations also studied Algerian-Iranian relations and evaluated various fields which might help to promote trade, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation. It was learned that several working sessions were held yesterday and today between members of the Iranian delegation and Algerian Government ministers. These sessions took place at the Ministries of Energy, Petrochemical Industries, Trade, Labor, Transport, the State Secretariats of Foreign Trade and Social Affairs, the Central Bank and the Algerian Airlines Company.

OFFICIALS MEET WITH IRANIAN TRANSPORT DELEGATION

LD160036 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Within the framework of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's official visit to Algeria, a delegation from the Iranian Transport Minister, headed by the deputy minister, held talks with a delegation from the Algerian Ministry of Transport and Maritime Fishing, headed by Brother (Sadiq bin Mahjubah). The talks basically dealt with the strengthening of cooperation in civil aviation, the exchange of expertise and information and the possibility of starting an air route linking the two countries. It is worth mentioning that these talks followed talks the two sides held last year during a visit to our country by an Iranian delegation headed by the transport minister.

LIBYA

PDRY LEADER SATISFIED WITH AL-QADHDHAFI MEETING

NC170746 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a cable from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party in the Yemeni Democratic Republic, on the occasion of his departure from the Jamahiriyah, in which he expressed his profound appreciation of and satisfaction with the outcome of his meeting with the brother leader.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad siad: We affirm to you that we will remain together in one trench for the victory of the Arab nation's struggle and for achieving the goals of this nation.

TOGO PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR VISIT 12 FEB

LD121418 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] The president to Togo, Gnassingbe Eyadema, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. A big welcome was staged for the guest at Tripoli international airport. It was led by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, members of the General People's Congress and members of the General People's Committee, a number of officers of the armed forces, and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Jamahiriyah.

The guest is accompanied by a delegation including Mouassa Barque, member of the party Political Bureau and minister of public works, Koffi Walla, minister of commerce and transport and member of the party Central Committee, and a number of Togolese officials.

The president to Togo told JANA that his visit to the Jamahiriyah fell within the context of consolidating good relations between the two countries. He said it is natural to meet the brothers in the Jamahiriyah every now and then to discuss cooperation and to study problems of interest to our African Continent and the world.

13 Feb Departure

LD131624 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] The brother leader yesterday received Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema. President Eyadema left Tripoli this morning. The sendoff staged for the guest president at Tripoli international airport was headed by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, members of the General People's Committee and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA RULES OUT TALKS WITH POLISARIO

LD161150 Rabat MAP in Arabia 0900 GMT 16 Feb 82

[excerpts] Rabat, 16 Feb (MAP) -- In his capacity as secretary general of the Istiqlal Party, M'hammed Boucetta addressed the final session of the party's council held prior to its 11th congress.

"Morocco," he said, "has not and will never recognize the mercenary group, talk to it or negotiate with it. We have thus ended a decisive stage which affirms we are in our land and all must understand that we will defend it by all our power and all our means."

On the question of the SAM-6 missiles and similar sophisticated weapons brought into the region by the enemies of Morocco, Boucetta said Morocco will not stand idle in the face of this grave escalation and it has the right, indeed the duty, to secure the means for defending its territorial integrity, its existence and its future. He affirmed that if we were attacked by weapons and ammunition from the East, then we will seek arms and ammunition from the West including the United States and other countries.

If the enemies of Morocco do not accept the OAU decisions and continue to procrastinate, Morocco will not accept any retraction from what has been decided, whether at OAU ministerial or summit level meetings.

Concluding his political review of the national cause, Boucetta said: "For this reason, we must mobilize ourselves for the coming stage of implementation. We must rally around the king to ensure success of the operation so that everyone will realize that our Saharan brothers cling proudly to their Moroccan character and are proud of their allegiance to the king and that they are ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of defending their Moroccan identity, establishing right and doing away with wrong."

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

PM090909 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 3 Feb 82 p 7

[Interview with Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid in Rabat -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Do you expect the referendum on the Sahara issue to be on schedule, bearing in mind that much has been said about the attitude of certain parties?

Answer: In Nairobi, at the request of many Arab, African and European heads of state, Morocco agreed to a referendum. We did so despite the fact that we consider the Sahara Moroccan territory and the Saharan people Moroccans. They have pledged loyalty to his majesty the king. We accepted the principle of a referendum. Certain terms were laid down for holding the referendum and we accepted them. However, it seems the Algerians and those siding with them, as well as the states trying to bring pressure to bear on African and international public opinion with a view to changing these terms, are all bent on obstructing the referendum. This is unacceptable to us. We insist on the principle of the referendum in the Sahara and we are confident that the Saharans will cling to their Moroccan identity.

Question: There have been reports about Algerian-Moroccan contacts and about Arab mediation efforts to clear the air between the two countries. What is the situation now?

Answer: Morocco is proud of its Arabism. It believes in the unity of the Arab Maghred and has worked sincerely and steadily for an Arab Maghred unity as the nucleus of the comprehensive Arab unity. You are undoubtedly aware of the Moroccan people's past and present heroic, spontaneous and voluntary support for their Algerian brothers whether in the days of colonialism or independence. The Moroccans fought and died for Algeria's independence. The people of this peaceful country are still sincerely and tolerantly extending their hands to the brother neighbors. Several good initiatives have been launched within this context to establish peace and end this artificial tension in north Africa. The Moroccans were very pleased with the initiatives of His Highness Saudi Crown Prince Fahd and his excellency the Tunisian president. However, the truth of the matter is that the war has been imposed on us. It is a war between us and Algeria. Algeria is distorting the facts with its claim that it has nothing to do with this war. The mercenary gangs come from and return to Algeria whenever they are beaten off by the Moroccan Army on the borders. They take shelter in camps on Algerian territory. Algeria supports, arms, feeds and provides media backing for them.

We are for any mediation and we are open to any dialogue. As I have said, our war is with Algeria and nobody else. The kingdom's officials have held discussions and deliberations about the dispute. Our opinion has been and will remain that the war must be ended and solutions promoted, but the question is: Do the Algerians understand the problem and do they want a settlement? I believe our Algerian brothers do not want a settlement and have so far shown no inclination in that direction. We Moroccans want our Algerian brothers to understand the need to solve the problem. The problem could expand if we bear in mind that hundreds of Cubans are fighting alongside Polisario and that certain Arab states, including Libya, are arming Polisario.

As for Algerian-Moroccan contacts, there have been no such contacts between officials of the two countries since the summit conference. The reports about a secret visit to Algeria by M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, are completely unfounded.

Question: Naturally, any talk about the summit conference must lead to Morocco. When do you expect the summit conference to be resumed and why was it suspended anyway?

Answer: As you may recall, the Fes summit conference was, as His Majesty King Hassan said, adjourned owing to the absence of a number of Arab heads of states and because of very difficult Arab circumstances in relation to the Palestinian and other Arab causes. The conference agreed to adjourn the conference until some time in the future. I believe it will be held soon. Some observers claimed the conference was suspended because of the Saudi peace plan. The truth is the plan was not studied and was not submitted for discussion. As I have said, it is important that the delicate and difficult circumstances necessitated the attendance of all the heads of state and, since this did not happen, the conference was suspended. It was a responsible decision. We in Morocco are doing our best to create the right circumstances for holding the conference soon and we are steadily working toward that end.

Question: How does Mauritania stand on the dispute?

Answer: Actually, the mercenaries sometimes come from Mauritanian territory, although the Mauritanians declared before His Majesty King Khalid that in principle they are neutral and do not support Polisario. The Mauritanians, however, should confirm this neutrality with deeds, not words.

Question: Will the Moroccan monarch visit the United States soon and what will the visit achieve vis-a-vis U.S.-Moroccan relations?

Answer: His Majesty King Hassan's expected visit to the United States will be his third to that friendly state and will be within the framework of the historical ties between the two countries. Morocco was the first country to recognize the independence of the United States. This is why the visit will assume importance. King Hassan II is the current chairman of the Arab summit conference and he is also the chairman of the Jerusalem commit'ee. The talks will mainly focus on Arab causes, especially the Palestine cause which Morocco has defended and will continue to defend.

As far as our bilateral relations are concerned, there is a common political desire to strengthen cooperation and friendship between the two countries. I would like to mention here, for example, that a U.S. economic delegation presently is in Morocco to enhance trade exchanges, investment and economic relations in general.

His Majesty King Hassan's imminent visit to Washington is clearly important and will have positive results for Arab and Islamic causes.

Question: What about the military aspect of U.S.-Moroccan relations?

Answer: Quite frankly, we will seek arms from the United States to defend our territory whenever necessary.

Question: How would you describe Moroccan-Spanish relations?

Answer: Our relations with Spain are very good. There was a dispute in the past over the Sahara, but we have got our Sahara back. We still have one problem with Spain, over Ceuta and Melilla. We are at all times trying to solve it peacefully. Our trade and economic relations are good. Some difficulties arise sometimes regarding the agreements but we manage to find solutions for them.

Question: It has been widely reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit the Maghreb countries. Has a date been set for his visit to Morocco?

Answer: So far there is no indication that the Syrian president will visit the Arab Maghreb countries. All we know is what we read in the press. He is welcome to visit Morocco if he wants.

Question: How do you assess Moroccan-Saudi relations and how much has your government contributed to these relations? And what is your opinion of the Saudi plan and the future of Moroccan-Saudi relations?

Answer: Relations between the Moroccan and Saudi Kingdoms are good, excellent in fact, and getting stronger every day. They are rooted in the fraternity and friendship that bind the two noble monarchs and fraternal peoples.

As for the Saudi peace plan, known as the Prince Fahd plan, it was supposed to be discussed at the Arab summit conference held in Fes in November, but the conference was suspended temporarily. The plan is expected to be discussed by the conference when it is resumed in a few months. The Arabs are requested to agree on a new starting point for regaining their usurped territories and rights, instead of remaining idle. This state of inaction is neither in the interests of the Palestine cause nor the Arab causes in general.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI HOLDS MEETINGS WITH ARMED FORCES UNITS

Omdurman Garrison 11 Feb

EA122150 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Feb 82

[Text] Gen Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, Minister of defense and commander in chief of the people's armed forces, met with the officers, NCO's and men of the Omdurman Garrison at 0830 today.

His excellency pointed out that the meeting was dictated by his assumption of the post of commander in chief of the people's armed forces and the tasks of the Sudanese people's armed forces as laid down in the permanent constitution make them one of the most important groups in the people's working forces, a group that implements decisive tasks, particularly since these tasks demand qualified armed forces personnel. His excellency stressed it is incumbent upon the state to provide a suitable climate for the armed forces to play their part. He explained that the May revolution has for the first time been able to prepare a unique position for the soldier to enable him to participate positively in political life. His excellency also explained to the officers and men that responsibility for the homeland and its citizens also falls on them and they must set a model of conduct and discipline for their fellow-countrymen.

Gen Ja'far Muhammad Numayri will meet officers and men in a series of meetings that will include all units of the people's armed forces.

Khartoum Garrison 15 Feb

JN151900 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA) -- President Numayri asserted today that the Sudanese people's army has competently played its role and presented the evidence of its true national commitment.

During his meeting with Khartoum North Garrison, president of the republic, minister of defence and supreme commander of the peoples army, Field Marshal Ja'far Numayri stated that the coming phase will witness great care for the army individuals.

In the context of his meeting with the military units in the capital President Numayri indicated before the Garrison of Khartoum North that what was achieved by the revolution in fields of rule is the fact which refutes the allegation circulated by the enemy press.

SSU COMMITTEE CONCLUDES 12TH SESSION 16 FEB

JN171025 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA) -- The popular committee assigned to promote the work in Sudan's Socialist Union (SSU) held here yesterday its 12th session of discussions.

Headed by President Numayri, the committee ended yesterday the general discussions and will begin to set up subcommittees in today's session after listening to the comment to be delivered by Numayri.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY SECURES OIL REQUIREMENTS

GF141720 Doha AR-RAYAH in Arabic 14 Feb 82 p 1

[Excerpt] Khartoum -- AR-RAYAH has learned from informed sources in the Sudanese capital that Sudan has succeeded in securing its oil requirements for 1 complete year to face the sharp reduction to which the Sudanese capital, district capitals and agricultural and production projects have been subjected.

The sources said a number of Gulf states have promised to provide Sudan with petroleum aid. This happens while the Arab Republic of Egypt has begun to send urgent aid to Sudan prior to its distribution elsewhere.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON U.S.-RABAT TIES

LD161302 Algiers APS in English 1036 GMT 16 Feb 82

["Nairobi: Polisario Communique"]

[Text] (Liberated zones), 16 Feb (APS) -- "The decolonization of Western Sahara is still an urgent problem and the African states should take their responsibilities and (?commence) with dilatory manoeuvres aimed at protracting an expansionist policy", a Saharan communique said. "It is clear now, the statement further reads, that the Moroccan king's so-called "initiation" was a mere manoeuvre to gain time. Today he does not even care to subscribe even formally to O.A.U. decisions. With the comfort of the massive U.S. intervention in his sides and also the flagrant complicity of some members of the ad hoc committee, Rabat categorically refuses the political solution negotiated between the two belligerents.

Polisario Executive Committee in its meeting on February 15th 1982 examined consequences of U.S. military intervention with Morocco and the failure of the O.A.U. implementing committee, the communique said indicating that the first U.N. process of decolonisation in 1975 was hindered by Henry Kissinger blessing and the O.A.U. process today is blocked by the king encouraged by the U.S. support.

Polisario Executive Committee appeals to all international organisations to take their responsibilities by asking Morocco to put an end to the colonial war in Western Sahara and by asking the U.S. to stop its harmful support to Rabat.

Communique released by the Saharan information minister warned against Morocco's constant expansionist policy which is taking grave dimensions threatening not only the region but the whole African Continent and the Arab world. "Morocco's king has concluded strategic accords which are making his country a base of aggression and destabilisation."

The Saharan people more and more determined to carry on its legitimate struggle for national independence appeals to all countries of the world for support by all means, the communique concludes.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

LIBERATION MOVEMENT HEAD SUPPORTS GOUKOUNI

AB161647 Paris AFP in French 1349 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Paris, 16 Feb (AFP) -- Ange Patasse, president of the Central African People's Liberation Movement (MLPC) on Tuesday gave his "total support" to President Goukouni Oueddei and suggested to him that they should "harmonize" their actions.

In a message to the leader of the Transitional National Union Government, published in Paris, Patasse deplored the difficult time Chad is facing "with the overt complicity of the OAU."

"Imperialism," Patasse added, "is determined to shake the base of unity in Chad and the CAR. There is an urgent need to harmonize our actions to prevent any divisive maneuvers."

CHAD

GOUKOUNI WILLING TO STEP DOWN 'TO RESTORE PEACE'

AB171050 Paris AFP in English 1031 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 17 Feb (AFP) -- Embattled Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei has indicated his willingness to step down if it would help "to restore peace in Chad."

But he told a press conference here yesterday he opposed a reshuffle in his Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT], composed of leaders of most of Chad's numerous factions, "although all the ministers are suggesting it."

President Goukouni also refused to say if he would be a candidate in future elections, which he said the government was prepared to organize, though not within the time limit laid down by the recent Organization of African Unity (OAU) conference on Chad in Nairobi. The conference, whose decisions were rejected by the GUNT, said that a cease-fire between the government and the rebel FAN should come into effect by the end of this month. It also said a new constitution should be drawn up and general and presidential elections held before the end of June, when the OAU peacekeeping force in Chad is scheduled to withdraw.

President Goukouni again rejected the Nairobi proposals and called on the OAU to "pull itself together and analyse the Chadian question coolly in order to help to end the war." "The failure of the OAU in Chad will be the failure of all Africa," he added.

Mr Goukouni said the Chadian problem was a military one and the government would act "with the aid of friendly brother countries." He said that he would never ask the OAU force to withdraw from Chad because it would be tantamount to giving the pan-African organization an undeserved honor.

The president repeated that his government was prepared to negotiate with the FAN but not with rebel Leader Hissein Habre, his former defense minister. "I created Hissein Habre and I will destroy him," he declared.

EMBASSY DENIES FOUR TOWNS JOINED HABRE FORCES

AB161802 Paris AFP in French 1715 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Paris, 16 Feb (AFP) -- The Embassy of Chad in Paris denied on Tuesday that Fada, Ounianga Kebir, Gouro and Am Dam (Ennedi Prefecture in the extreme north of the country), have rallied around Hissein Habre's FAN, as was announced by a FAN representative in Khartoum on 13 February.

In a communique, the Embassy of Chad states that "government forces of the Fada garrison captured several elements of FAN during recent fighting around Kalait and De Goz." In addition, the embassy denied that any faction within the Transitional National Union Government favors negotiations with Hissein Habre.

CONGO

SASSOU-NGUESSO RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM POLISARIO

AB161704 Paris AFP in French 1440 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Brazzaville, 16 Feb (AFP) -- President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo on Monday received an envoy of the SDAR, bearing a message from the secretary general of the Polisario Front, Muhammed 'Abdo al-Aziz, the CONGOLESE NEWS AGENCY (ACI) announced on Tuesday.

The content of the message was not revealed, but according to the ACI, it might concern the position of the Saharans after the OAU minisummit, which has just been held in Nairobi.

GABON

DPRK VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 16 FEB

AB162036 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Kim Chae-pong, the DPRK vice minister of foreign affairs, arrived this afternoon in Libreville for a 4-day official visit. The DPRK vice minister was received on arrival at the Leon M'ba International Airport by his Gabonese counterpart, Mrs Honorine Dossou-Naki, with whom he held private talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. On arrival at the airport, Kim Chae-pong answered questions from the Gabonese press:

[Begin recording in Korean fading into French translation] The purpose of the DPRK Foreign Affairs Ministry delegation's visit to Gabon is to hold talks on bilateral issues and on friendly relations between our two countries. We will discuss issues of mutual interest between our two countries.

[Question] Now that you are talking about questions of mutual interest, could you brief us on the relations of cooperation between Gabon and your country?

[Answer] [words indistinct] Since our time is very limited. [end recording]

After his visit to Gabon, the DPRK vice minister will visit the CAR.

GHANA

TIMES URGES 'AFRICAN-INSPIRED SOLUTION' FOR CHAD

AB152005 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Writing under the heading, "The OAU in Chad," the GHANAIAN TIMES says the problems that have already beset the OAU peacekeeping force in Chad should provide fresh emphasis on the point that African problems must be solved by African-inspired solutions. It says when foreign interests began pouring arms and money to the former defense minister, Mr Habre, to defy the authority of the Chad Government, the best solution was to protect the territorial integrity and national unity of that country and this was exactly what the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, did. But the TIMES regrets that the anti-African external interests read false motives into Libya's involvement and using their stooges on the continent pressurized the OAU to accept a very sad solution in Chad. It points out that the OAU peacekeeping force is deliberately made ineffective by the Western powers which maintain double standards on African issues, thus paving the way for Habre to start eating up Chad again. The TIMES says that this time the OAU should resist being drawn away from finding an African-inspired solution in Chad.

UNIONS TOLD TO HOLD CONGRESSES BY 30 APRIL

AB170754 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The Trades Union Congress [TUC] has directed that all its national unions should hold their congress by 30 April. At a meeting in Accra today, the Executive Board of the TUC further directed that all unions should invite suggestions to broaden the base and involvement of workers at grassroot level in drawing up a new constitution and by-laws. The statement by the TUC said as a followup to the practical implementation of the guidelines adopted for the success of the revolution, the Executive Board has drawn up a program for all the regions. This should begin in the Eastern Region Saturday. Details of the program were, however, not disclosed.

RAWLINGS CALLS FOR BETTER RURAL HEALTH CARE

AB152042 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Addressing the closing session of a 5-day seminar for health administrators in Accra, the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, called on them to ensure that health services reached the neglected people in the rural areas. He regretted that only people in the urban centers enjoy better health services.

PNDC MEMBER SAYS POLITICIANS RUINED COUNTRY

AB152048 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council, Wo J. Buadi, has declared that Ghana's 25 years of independence have been years of suffering at the hands of unscrupulous politicians who virtually destroyed the country's economy. The result is that Ghanaians fled from their own country to neighboring states to seek better living conditions.

Wo J. Buadi was inagurating a branch of the people's defense committee [PDC] at Avenor in Accra. He asked Ghanaians to realize that times have changed and everybody should become a watchdog of the revolution.

He warned members of the PDC not to allow market women to use Avenor as a hoarding point. They should also not condone and connive with other antisocial elements in the area. Such unpatriotic acts, Warrant Officer Buadi said, will attract severe revolutionary penalties. He again asked landlords to reduce their rents.

The acting director general of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Mr Kwame Karikari, who also spoke, noted with satisfaction the seriousness with which the people of Avenor have embraced the revolution. He asked the residents to mobilize and contribute effectively toward the national reconstruction exercise. They should stand solidly behind the PNDC in its efforts to rebuild the country.

SENEGAL

DIOUF ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF ANGOLA TIES

AB162230 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The weekly session of the Council of Ministers was marked today by an important decision. President Abdou Diouf announced to the ministers assembled this morning at the Palais de la Republique the decision of the Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Senegal to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The head of state recalled Senegal's desire to establish diplomatic relations with all brother countries in Africa in order to complete the decolonization of our continent and the consolidation of African unity.

Commentary: No Surprise

AB162247 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] Angola and Senegal are going to exchange ambassadors. Diplomatic relations between Luanda and Dakar was established this morning, 16 February. This is no surprise. The procedure started a while ago and everyone was aware of it. The international press noted the diplomatic meetings between the two countries and it particularly highlighted the meeting between Presidents dos Santos and Abdou Diouf on 24 November 1981 in Praia, a meeting which we did not comment on at the time simply because Senegalese diplomacy is not conducted in public. That also explains why last December we did not highlight the visit to Dakar of Paulo Jorge, Angolan minister of foreign affairs.

But those who follow international politics know that in numerous circumstances, Senegal, through the voice of President Abdou Diouf, has pleaded the cause of Luanda, especially regarding incursions by South Africa on that African territory. Angola is one of the frontline states serving as a base for SWAPO in its national liberation war. Yes, Senegal is one of the countries whose stand has never varied on its support for SWAPO and the struggle of the Namibian people and that of the Palestinian people under the PLO of Yasir 'Arafat. This creates a kind of solidarity.

But in addition, the two countries belong to the OAU which, to be viable, needs members linked by brotherly solidarity established in a sovereign manner by the states themselves. We could say more; without being prophetic, we can predict other rapprochements like this because of the will of President Abdou Diouf who acts without any pressure. It is the spirit of our new diplomacy.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS WARNS AGAINST VIOLENCE IN ELECTIONS

AB120814 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Excerpt] President Siaka Stevens has appealed to paramount chiefs, members of Parliament and the people of Kornadougou District to ensure that the forthcoming general elections are held without violence and intimidation.

Speaking at the Kabala community center yesterday, President Stevens appealed to all prospective candidates to warn their supporters to desist from violence or taking the law into their own hands. He stressed that the people should be given an opportunity to choose their representatives. President Stevens emphasized that a parliamentary seat was not the exclusive property of any individual and that one's stay in Parliament depended on the periodic renewal of the people's mandate. He gave a stern warning that those who broke the law, irrespective of status, would face the full consequences. President Stevens said the maintenance of law and order was paramount to enable peace and tranquillity to prevail, not only in the districts, but throughout the country. He warned the people not to regard parliament as a means of enriching oneself, as there are other avenues in life which could contribute effectively, not only to one's [words indistinct] but to that of the nation as well.

The president spoke about the immense economic benefits of oil and kimberlite mining and appealed to prospectors of gold to sell their find to the Bank of Sierra Leone, thereby earning foreign exchange for the country. President Stevens described Sierra Leone as not being singular in experiencing economic hardship, a current international trend, and said that it was only through agriculture that the survival of the nation could be guaranteed. Any education which fails to teach the people how to fend for themselves, especially in providing their staple food, will be of no use to the individual as well as the nation. The president lamented that this country still has to import rice, its staple food, and appealed to agricutural institutions in the country to develop programs which would help Sierra Leone to become self-sufficient in rice.

TOGO

VISITING SDAR MINISTER: POLISARIO READY TO TALK

AB170835 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the republic, yesterday received successively four foreign officials -- the managing director of Uta Airlines; the information minister of the SDAR; the mayor of Cocody, a suburb of Abidjan, and former Ivorian foreign minister; and the Upper Volta foreign minister.

The head of state received a SDAR delegation led by Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, Saharan minister of information. The delegation delivered a message from the secretary general of the Polisario Front, Muhammed 'Abd al-Aziz, to the Togolese head of state. The message concerns the position of the Polisario Front on the Western Sahara problem, a few days after the Nairobi summit which could not end in a conclusion of peace between Morocco and the Polisario Front. Talking about the discussions held with the head of state, Salek said he thanked General Eyadema on behalf of 'Abd al-Aziz for his constant support for the Saharan people's cause. He also indicated that the SDAR Government and the Polisario Front are prepared to negotiate for this peace agreement which will enable the OAU and the United Nations to implement the resolution concerning particularly the referendum for self-determination; a referendum which should be free, general and democratic.

The last to be received in audience was Tientaraboum, Upper Volta minister of foreign affairs. He bore a message from the Upper Volta head of state, Col Saye Zerbo, to his Togolese counterpart, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema.

ANGOLA

BULGARIAN EDUCATION MINISTER, DELEGATION ARRIVES

AB161910 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1700 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 16 Feb (ANGOP) -- Alexander Fol, education minister of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, arrived Tuesday morning in the Angolan capital for a 7-day visit at the invitation of his Angolan counterpart, Augusto Lopes Teixeira.

The Bulgarian delegation, including the vice chairman of Bulgaria's Supreme Council for Education, Rachco Iliev, and other functionaries, will hold talks with Angolan education officials at the highest level and will visit the Provinces of Huambo and Benguela.

The talks are scheduled to begin Wednesday, after which medium level and elementary educational establishments will be visited. Bulgaria maintains close cooperation with Angola in the field of education. The two countries have developed their cooperation since Angola's struggle against colonialism when the MPLA used to send its cadres to specialize in that socialist country. Angolan scholarship students are in Bulgaria and Bulgarian lecturers are teaching in Angola.

This cooperation increased considerably with the first visit of the late President Agostinho Neto to Sofia after Angola's independence and subsequently with the visit of Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov to Angola.

More recently, in October 1981, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, during a tour of African, European and Asian countries, paid an official friendly visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian education minister was welcomed at the 4 February Airport by Augusto Lopes Teixeira, minister of education of Angola; Artur Pestana ("Pepetela"), vice minister of middle and higher education; Joaquim da Silva Matias, vice minister for primary education; and Joao Filipe Martins, rector of the University of Angola.

PROBLEMS FACING DISPLACED PERSONS NOTED

AB111325 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1100 GMT 11 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 11 Feb (ANGOP) -- The number of displaced persons in the People's Republic of Angola has increased considerably, mainly as a result of the South African aggression, JORNAL DE ANGOLA said today. The paper was referring to an interview with Rodeth Gil, secretary of social affairs in the Angolan Government.

In addition to its efforts to repatriate Angolans residing in neighboring countries, mainly in Zaire, the country is faced with the situation whereby thousands of citizens were compelled to abandon their belongings and homes because of Pretoria's acts of aggression and to experience numerous sufferings such as poverty and lack of food, drugs and other essential commodities needed for their subsistence, the newspaper noted.

Rodeth Gil said the Angolan Government is, therefore, compelled to spend a large portion of its financial resources to procure local and imported products in addition to those obtained from international organizations and countries with which Angola maintains diplomatic and commercial relations.

To solve the immense and serious social problems, Rodeth Gil emphasized, priority will be given to the war-stricken areas. The authorities' first step is a prompt response and adequate assistance to the needy, followed by national reconstruction tasks.

A great effort has been made to adopt supporting methods and to supply seeds to the displaced populations so that to the extent possible they themselves can produce some of their basic food, the secretary of social affairs added.

Despite this aid and all the actions taken by the national bureau for social affairs to solve the problems confronting the displaced populations, not much progress was made last year in the various sectors of activity.

South Africa's aggressiveness, through armed raids, air attacks and acts of provocation, have been stepped up lately. Since August 1981, the South African Army has embarked upon an invasion of Angolan territory which culminated in the occupation of a vast area of the country and caused a large part of the population of Cunene to be displaced.

In the interview with JORNAL DE ANGOLA, Rodeth Gil indicated that since the accession to national independence, the Angolan workers have witnessed the establishment of 50 day nurseries and child care centers, accomodating 4,457 children from the various strata of society.

Despite the lack of physical structures, last year 13 children's establishments became operational including 11 day nurseries, 1 child care center and 1 nursery. Also last year, the number of distribution centers increased to 129. These centers distribute food to children of displaced persons to combat malnutrition among the rural population, especially in the zones where the enemy's action was most felt, said Rodeth Gil, who is also a member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE CHALLENGES ZAPU ON ARMS DISCOVERIES

CA131832 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1807 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, today made the Marandellas declaration, calling on all ZAPU leaders to publicly make their position known with regard to the discovery of arms on their farms, or face the wrath of the law. Comrade Mugabe made this call when he addressed a rally in Marandellas this afternoon. He said silence on the part of the ZAPU leadership means implicit acceptance of the existence of arms on their farms. In the same breath, the prime minister warned any counterrevolutionary elements and organizations bent on causing chaos in the country that they may (?make a similar) chaotic reaction from both the government and ZANU-PF.

Comrade Mugabe said in the quest for peace and unity the government united all former armies into one national army under a single commander, Lt Gen Rex Nhongo. However, the prime minister said he is saddened by the fact that there are still some elements in Zimbabwe working against the government's efforts to establish peace in the country. He noted that some of these elements have a long history of collaboration (?and) selling out to the enemy. Saying that the arms searches on the ZAPU farms are still continuing, the prime minister added that a definitive statement will be made some time next week.

Statement Upcoming

CA170712 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, is to give a detailed statement on the arms caches being found in Matabeleland. Announcing this yesterday, the minister of home affairs, Comrade Hove, said the statement will deal in detail with the activities of eleven companies and their subsidiaries which were outlawed by the government.

The president, Comrade Banana, said he will appoint a liquidator as soon as possible. Police and army units in Salisbury and Bulawayo yesterday sealed off the outlawed properties named in the presidential proclamation. Three more ZAPU properties are reported to be still under investigation.

ZIANA reports that a crucial Cabinet meeting is to be called tomorrow to discuss the fate of ZAPU in the government in the light of the discoveries of arms and equipment on its farms.

GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TO REEQUIP AIR FORCE

AB121249 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 12 Feb 82

[By Dave Clemens]

[Text] Salisbury, Feb 12 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe is taking the first steps to rearm its antiquated air force of 100-150 aircraft with modern fighters and transport planes. And diplomatic sources say the government is grappling with the choice of trying to assemble the sort of force that could seriously oppose an eventual attack by neighbouring politically hostile South Africa's highly sophisticated air force, or building a modest complement to the national army able to cope with a brushfire conflict such as the one stirred up in Mozambique by South African-backed rebels.

In making the choice, the Salisbury government must deal with the ambitions of the white air force command structure, where the sources say there is some sentiment for acquiring expensive aircraft that Zimbabwe would need substantial military assistance to purchase.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, who is his own defense minister, must also decide whether Zimbabwe will acquire equipment exclusively from the West, which manufactures more advanced, reliable aircraft, or also turn to the East in the interest of maintaining his non-aligned posture.

The initial purchase has already been made. Mr Mugabe, speaking in the House of Assembly, noted last September 15 that the air force would replace its old Vampire turbojet trainers with British-made Hawks. He did not say how many planes would be acquired or at what cost, but diplomatic sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the deal was worth upwards of 55 million U.S. dollars -- enough to purchase a squadron of the jet Hawks, which can be used as light fighter aircraft in addition to their training role.

Training is especially important for an air force that is trying to build up a corps of black pilots -- there were none in the Rhodesian Air Force, and five blacks have won their wings since independence two years ago -- as fast as possible to replace departing whites. Pilot training normally takes 18 months to two years, but the sources said the Zimbabwean Air Force is trying to accelerate the process.

The Hawks are to be delivered soon, the sources said. Their cost is at least equivalent to the 59 million U.S. dollars set aside for aircraft procurement and maintenance in this year's national budget (up nearly 200 percent from last year and the largest single defense item other than salaries for the swollen army of 60,000 soldiers). But Britain is expected to let Zimbabwe pay for the Hawks over several years, the sources said.

In the transport field, the Zimbabwean Air Force relies on a dozen Dakota DC-3s that are 35 years old and nearly exhausted by the abnormally high number of flying hours they put in during the Rhodesian regime's war against black guerrillas in the 1970's.

Diplomatic and air force sources say the military is looking at the Spanish-built Casa, a small transport that can carry 24 men and is considered ideal for a country like Zimbabwe, which is about the size of the U.S. State of Montana. Another possibility, the diplomatic sources said, is the Canadian-made Buffalo.

The United States, largest arms merchant in the West, is unlikely to get involved in a military equipment sales program in Zimbabwe for the present. Although some air force officers are keen on planes such as the Lockheed Hercules C-130 transport and the Northrop F-5E fighter jet, and salesmen from both companies have visited Salisbury, U.S. officials say they do not believe the Zimbabwean Government either needs or wants such material now. The officials also say the U.S. believes it is spending enough on civilian aid to Zimbabwe -- up to 400 million U.S. dollars will have been provided in loans and grants by the middle of the decade -- and is satisfied with the existing program where 10 or so Zimbabwean military specialists a year are to train in the United States.

As for France, the West's second-leading purveyor of military hardware, it appears to have little immediate role to play. The Franco-German Transall is not though to be in the running in the transport field.

A high-ranking delegation from the Zimbabwean Armed Forces attended last year's Paris air show, and was highly impressed with the technical capabilities of the Mirage fighter, but the aircraft is considered far too expensive for Zimbabwe.

The question of full-sized fighters is not considered the most pressing in any case. The Zimbabwean Air Force currently has at least 15-Hawker Hunter attack jets -- at least three of which have been acquired from Kenya since independence -- that are just over 20 years old and can probably last out the 1980's. This is also true for the helicopter squadron of a dozen U.S. Bell Hueys and 30-40 French Alouettes.

What of weaponry from the East bloc or non-aligned states? Mr Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) has traditional ties to China, North Korea, Romania, Yugoslavia and Pakistan -- to name a few, -- and received military aid from them during the guerrilla war. But the Soviet Union armed the force of minority leader Joshua Nkomo and is still not highly esteemed by the government.

While the possibility has been raised in black military circles of getting MiG-21s or 23s, Western diplomatic sources say such an acquisition coupled with the purchase of Western equipment would pose problems of standardization that would make it more difficult and time-consuming to train mechanics and pilots, already in short supply due to the white exodus.

However, observers note that Mr Mugabe was willing to risk the same sort of problem when he agreed to have North Korea supply several million dollars worth of weapons and advisers to arm and train the army's Fifth Brigade, in the interest of non-alignment. The rest of the Zimbabwean Air Force consists of about 40 light planes including U.S. Cessna 337s, Italian Merchetti SF260s and British Britten-Norman Islanders, a few obsolete British Canberra bombers and half-a-dozen Vampires. The personnel complement is estimated at 1,300, about 65 percent of whom are white, commanded by Air Marshal Norman Walsh.